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# THE TIMES

Antonia Fraser:  
Night of the  
Black Nun, page 8

## Sir Harold says press used smear tactics to influence 1974 polls

Sir Harold Wilson, yesterday accused sections of the national press of conducting a campaign of muck-raking and innuendo in an attempt to influence the outcome of the 1974 general elections. He said in evidence to the Royal Commission on the Press that some newspapers violated the minimum standards that should be observed.

### 'Minimum standards violated'

Stewart Trender  
A deliberate campaign of muck-raking and innuendo was waged by a number of national newspapers in an attempt to influence the result of the two general elections in 1974, Sir Harold Wilson said in evidence to the Royal Commission on the Press, published yesterday.

Sir Harold's memorandum to the commission, which was made in Portsmouth before the October general election, in which he spoke of "shorts of distinguished journalists coming to the country".

In his evidence to the commission his attack is directed at the Daily Mail, although other newspapers, including the Daily Express, do not escape criticism.

Publication of the memorandum has been delayed by legal difficulties. Some will see it as a last and bitter reprimand in a relationship between a former Prime Minister and a press which began harmoniously in 1964 but turned sour, nevertheless, he raises issues which will cause debate.

Professor Oliver McGregor, chairman of the commission, in a letter to Sir Harold asking him for his evidence, thought it desirable that it could be made public as soon as possible.

Professor McGregor said Sir Harold's evidence came too late to the commission to consider fully but he wrote: "We all are referring to several of the substantive issues which are raised by your evidence."

In his memorandum Sir Harold said his speech at Portsmouth was concerned with "journalistic standards and the freedom of readers to enjoy a choice of opinions and policies presented by questionable sources."

He said the press remains largely hostile to Labour and added: "The question is how far it is right to go in pursuing that hostility? Are we to be barred or is a different standard of treatment of politicians and other public figures to be dependent upon the approval or otherwise of their views or actions by newspaper proprietors and editors?"

In 1974 sections of Fleet Street, particularly the Daily Mail and the Daily Express, seemed to me to believe the minimum standards that journalists should observe, and which much of Fleet Street observes.

"It is my contention that the deliberate and painful exploitation of the



Sir Harold Wilson

they are reporting smoke without fire."

Sir Harold said that as the Labour Government received warnings in 1974 of potential disclosures, attempts were made to silence Labour through a variety of smear tactics. He included attempts to find links with the Poulson case to Sir Harold's tax affairs.

Before the general election in February the Daily Mail tried to establish a story about land deals which could be printed before the votes were cast, and then in the full before the next election there was more activity, Sir Harold said. As the election approached Labour waited for an onslaught that never came.

In the six months between the elections there was a "sordid quality about sections of our national press", Sir Harold said. Even now he was not sure that it was over. Even if the investigations were the work of freelance journalists "they could not happen if there was not a market available in Fleet Street."

The appendices deal in great detail with the so-called "land deals" and "Poulson case" covered and reworded to the issue. Of the Daily Mail, which first carried the report, Sir Harold said: "They thought they had a pre-election story; they apparently lost interest until March when they realised the story when they learnt the Daily Express had a splash story on the same subject."

Last night Mr David English, editor of the Daily Mail, said Sir Harold's evidence was "utterly predictable, it is based on mis-information, half information and, where it appears to rely on unnamed outside evidence, downright lies."

Obviously it is designed to defend his cohorts of Fleet Street journalists, and absolutely fails to do so. That was an election stunt and this confirms it. I do not think anyone in journalism will take Sir Harold's evidence very seriously and I think if many people outside it, they will.

The original draft of the evidence was written in 1975 by Mr Joe Haines, then press officer at 10 Downing Street, who was subsequently considered by some more revealing than anything Fleet Street ever wrote.

Details of evidence, page 2

## Cricket Council decide Packer series incompatible with captaincy of England Test selectors instructed not to appoint Tony Greig

By John Woodcock  
Cricket Correspondent  
Tony Greig has been deprived of the England Test captaincy. Meeting at Lord's yesterday, the emergency committee of the Cricket Council announced that they would be instructing Alec Rodger, the chairman of the selectors that "Tony Greig is not to be considered for the position of captaincy of England" for the forthcoming series against Australia.

The committee said that, in reaching this decision, they had taken into consideration "the current England captain's close and personal involvement with the Packer series, and the fact that the selectors in the management, selection and development of England players for the future and clearly Tony Greig is unlikely to be able to do this as his stated intention is to be contracted elsewhere" during the next three winters.

Yesterday's decision, besides being a great personal disappointment to Greig, is bound, to some extent, to be a setback to the recovery which the England team launched with some

which drastically reduces their availability for England, deserves what punishment it gets.

However plausibly Greig may claim that what he is doing is for the good of English cricket, however unselfish an act he may say it is, however truthfully he may express the hope that the authorities at Lord's will be "sensible" in how they react to the Packer circus, no one is likely to be convinced that he has acted less than miserably as the reigning captain.

Like Knott and Underwood, Greig can play for England in the coming series unless the International Cricket Conference, who may be convened within the next fortnight (their annual meeting is not due until July 26), should rule that any one who has already signed for Packer has, by doing so, excluded himself from official



Tony Greig: Admitted recruiting players.

Test cricket. As the Packer party include most of the Australian team currently touring England and the Australian manager has said that no sanctions will be imposed on any of them for the duration of their tour, what action the ICC decide on is unlikely to take effect until the Australian tour is over.

There have been various occasions since he became an England cricketer when Greig has overplayed his hand. The most famous, or infamous, was at Port of Spain in 1975, when he ran out Kalicharran as he was making off to the pavilion after the last ball of a day's play. There was always this danger that, for some reason or other, his impulsiveness, or his commercialism, or the strange insensitiveness which exists within a normally charming and

Continued on page 5, col 5.

## Former Yard chiefs get 12 years for bribes plot

By Clive Borrell  
Six former members of Scotland Yard's obscure public relations squad were jailed at the Central Criminal Court last night for what Mr Justice Mansfield described as an "evil conspiracy" during which they accepted bribes of more than £100,000 a year from dealers in pornographic material.

The judge said: "This is a case in which thousands and thousands of pounds have been involved, and I am going to make sure that if any of them are found to be involved in this case, they will be sent to prison for the rest of their lives."

The six officers, who had all been found guilty of conspiracy to accept bribes, had, he said, organized a vast protection racket which became an organization for the collection and distribution of bribes from lawbreakers.

Former Det Chief Superintendent Alfred Wood, 51, was sentenced to 12 years and ordered to pay £10,000 towards his legal costs. Beside him in the dock throughout the trial was Wallace Virgo, aged 59, a former commander, who at one time was in charge of Scotland Yard's 3,500 detectives. He was also sentenced to 12 years and ordered to pay £15,000 costs.

Leslie Alton, aged 47, a retired detective inspector, said by the judge to be "almost in the same class as Moody", was sentenced to 10 years and ordered to pay £5,000 costs. He was a former detective constable, was sent to prison for seven years; David Gareth Lee Hamer, aged 34, a suspended detective sergeant, was sent to prison for four years; and Rodney Tilley, aged 45, a former detective constable, was jailed for three years.

After the six men had left the dock Mr Justice Mansfield paid tribute to Sir Robert Carr, the former Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, and to the press for their persistence in continuing their investigations in the face of "scurrilous efforts by people who thought that being enemies of the law was being enemies of the law."

The judge said: "Sir Robert undoubtedly did a great service in tackling this problem with determination and vigour when he started these investigations in 1974. Without the efforts of the press, he added, "it is doubtful whether much of what we have heard would have ever come to light. The whole country owes them a debt."

He commended the senior officers of the League of Red Cross Societies, based here, appealed today for food, clothing and blankets for up to 20,000 people being evacuated to Portugal.

The appeal was issued at the request of the Portuguese Red Cross, which has established

## Confusion in Ulster as strike crumbles

From Robert Parker  
Belfast  
There was confusion in Northern Ireland yesterday about whether the 11-day "loyalist" strike was officially over. The signs were that everything was back to normal, but the organizers said it was "non-sense" to say that the stoppage had ended and denied reports of division among the United Ulster Action Council.

The organizers maintained that shops and public houses that reopened yesterday had been allowed to do so so that people could stock up for the weekend.

But people in the Protestant Salford Street area said that members of the Ulster Defence Association, the paramilitary group backing the strike, had told them that the stoppage was over and that they could keep their shops open today.

Reports of intimidation were at their lowest yesterday, passenger ferries were sailing almost normally, and power supplies were at full strength. Busesmen voted to return to work today and the Northern Ireland Office said that as far as it could see the situation was now normal.

There was speculation in Belfast yesterday that a split had developed among the 31 members of the action council.

After a meeting on Thursday night rumours swept Belfast that the strike had been called off. Although the strike has had limited success compared to the 1974 strike, which ended power-sharing, it has cost about £25m so far, according to Mr Connaughton, Minister of State for Northern Ireland. Union leaders report that 1,300 jobs are in jeopardy because of the strike. It is also reported that about 30,000 people have lodged social security claims.

Mr Mason, Secretary of State, said yesterday that the strike, which was aimed at securing increased security measures against the IRA, had done the IRA's job for them.

"It is a great pity that the efforts of the security forces should have been diverted these past two weeks from their prime task of defeating the IRA. The Provisionals must be laughing up their sleeves at the wreckers who have been doing their work for them," he said at a press conference at the Royal Irish Rangers at Ballymena.

"I know that the community is deeply concerned about security. I share that concern, and I want the people of Northern Ireland to know that I am constantly looking for ways in which to restore peace. For me, there is no acceptable level of violence."

The strike was also attacked by Mr Enock Powell in a speech at Scarva, Co Down, last night. He said it was an act of criminal irresponsibility perpetrated by a small knot of men.

## Bhutto offer to submit to a referendum

From Richard Wing  
Rawalpindi, May 13  
Mr Bhutto today proposed a referendum to decide whether he should continue as Prime Minister of Pakistan as a way of settling the political crisis which has engulfed the country since he was elected to office in the wake of the 1973 elections.

He did so after rejecting the Opposition's demand for a fresh general election, arguing that "for the present and foreseeable future" an election would "open the doors wide to foreign intervention."

Earlier today ministers had spoken to journalists about alleged movements by Iranian troops and Indian Air Force units along Pakistan's frontiers.

Official sources asserted that Indian Air Force squadrons have been moved up to their forward bases near the frontier with Pakistan.

The most disturbing part of Mr Bhutto's latest gambit was the clear indication he gave that what he called "the framework of the country would have to be adjusted to meet all future crises according to our judgment," if he won.

"I am not saying I am in favour of one party rule or a dictatorship," the Prime Minister declared. "The structure has to be modified democratically, according to our conditions," he went on in authoritarian, emotional tones. "This is not putting the clock back but taking account of our experience and that of other Third World countries."

## Jay posting well received in Washington

By Louis Heren  
The appointment of Mr Peter Jay as Britain's ambassador to the United States has been well received in Washington. The newspapers have emphasized his intelligence, his earlier service at the Treasury and his knowledge of American affairs.

The consensus is that this is a good appointment, and the reactions in London came as a surprise. In the circumstances, it is worth trying to establish what really happened, who was recommended, and why.

The story began on Wednesday afternoon when Dr Owen, the Foreign Secretary, briefed diplomatic correspondents at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. He was apparently still tired after the Downing Street and NATO conferences, and the summit was the first item discussed.

He went on to speak about the Anglo-American mission to Rhodesia, said that Sir Peter Ramsbottom had been appointed Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Bermuda, and only then announced Mr Jay's appointment.

Presumably Dr Owen expected adverse or sceptical comment. Whatever the reason, he said in effect that Bermuda was an important post that needed to be filled by a capable and distinguished public servant such as Sir Peter.

That was nonsense, of course. Bermuda is a pleasant island with a comfortable life, a desirable Government House, highly suitable as a retirement post for an admiral or general, but not for an experienced diplomat still at the height of his powers.

The reactions of Westminster and Fleet Street clearly surprised the Prime Minister's office. The spiteful and untrue suggestions of nepotism must have pained Mr Callaghan, although they could not have been unexpected, but he has the opportunity of answering them at question time on Thursday.

There was little reason to believe that the Prime Minister could not justify Mr Jay's appointment. He could have been launched on his new career without embarrassment if it were not for what is known as the lobby system.

A few hours before the Prime Minister was due to speak in the House the usual morning lobby briefing was held at 11.30 am by Mr Tom McCaffrey, who has been Mr Callaghan's press secretary since he was at the Home Office. By the early afternoon the reputation of Sir Peter Ramsbottom was assassinated on the front pages of the evening papers, and those who know the lobby system thought

## Portuguese prepare for Mozambique exodus

From Our Correspondent  
Geneva, May 13  
As the deadline approached for foreigners in Mozambique to leave if they do not want to join the League of Red Cross Societies, based here, appealed today for food, clothing and blankets for up to 20,000 people being evacuated to Portugal.

The appeal was issued at the request of the Portuguese Red Cross, which has established reception centres at airports.

The office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees says it has been asked by both the Portuguese and the League of Red Cross Societies to arrange air transport if necessary for stateless people.

The evacuation follows a decree on March 16 giving all foreigners who did not wish to join Mozambique's nationality two months to leave the country.

## 'La Pasionaria' returns to Spain from 38-year exile

Madrid, May 13.—Senora Dolores Ibarruri, aged 82, the president of the Spanish Communist Party, arrived here by air from Moscow today after 38 years of exile in the Soviet Union.

Known as "La Pasionaria" because of her fiery oratory during the civil war, she left Spain on March 6, 1939, after the defeat of the Republic's forces by General Franco's army.

Michael Savile, the Soviet Communist Party's chief theoretician, Senora Ibarruri has been much honoured in Russia, being awarded the Order of Lenin, the highest Soviet civilian award, in 1965. Reuters, AP and Agence France-Press.

## Record £475m building society receipts in April

Hopes of another cut in the mortgage rate, possibly to 10½ per cent, have been raised after building society net receipts reached a record of £475m last month. The size of any reduction in mortgages will depend upon the May level of receipts and if they continue to be high, societies will be anxious to trim their current investment rate. Page 17

## Britain's trade gap narrows to £109m

Britain's trade deficit in April was reduced to £109m, the best performance for 53 years, with the estimated surplus on the current account totalling £11m. In the last three months, there was a surplus of £126m on the current balance, compared with a £565m deficit in the three months to end January. Page 17

## Tory pay-pact hint

A Conservative government would seek a voluntary pay pact with the trade unions, Mr Prior, opposition spokesman on employment, said. He advocated the use of public money to allow unions to conduct their elections in secret by post and suggested a moratorium of three to four years on worker-directors. Page 3

## Scots 'deluded'

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the shadow Chancellor, told Scottish Conservatives that the economic case for an independent Scotland was built on dangerous myths. The Scottish people were deluded if they thought the economic sun would break through as the last Anglo-Saxon left their country. Page 3

## Sir Eric Miller is voted off board

Sir Eric Miller, chairman of Peachey Property Corporation, was forced from the board yesterday at the company's annual meeting. Angry shareholders barracked the directors demanding more details of the events that have led to a Department of Trade investigation into the group. Page 17

## Greece flights ban

Flights to Greece have been disrupted by a ban imposed by the International Federation of Air Line Pilots. The Greek civilian air traffic controllers are on strike and military personnel have taken over, but the pilots say the level of safety is "unacceptably low". Page 5

## Factory cancer trial

Five officials of a dye factory are on trial in Turin after workers at the plant died of cancer. It is alleged that 132 workers have died from cancer of the bladder over the past 20 years. Thirty-two deaths were found officially to have been caused by toxic chemicals. Page 4

## Lab-Lib pact terms

Mr Steel, the Liberal leader, said that a decision to extend the Lab-Lib pact into another session would depend on two considerations, direct European elections with proportional representation and the attack on inflation. Page 3

## NUJ dispute: The journalists' dispute at East Midlands Allied Press is reported to be nearing settlement. 2

## Child-minding: Parents, child-minders and social workers have set up a national association to encourage interest in the needs of minded children. 16

## Rome: Italian Cabinet takes steps to prevent interference with the course of justice. 4

## Washington: Ex-President Nixon tells David Frost how Mrs Gandhi was stopped at the last moment from 'gobbling up West Pakistan'. 4

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# HOME NEWS

## Scottish people must come back to earth, Tory conference is told

By Ronald Faux.

The economic case for an independent Scotland was built on two dangerous myths, Sir Geoffrey Howe, QC, the shadow Chancellor, told Scottish Conservatives at their conference in Perth yesterday.

He said the first myth was that all Scotland's troubles were the fault of the English and the second that North Sea oil would miraculously restore a Scottish economy.

It was high time the people of Scotland came back to earth, he declared.

He said the Scottish economy was not a plague visited on Scotland by a malignant Whitehall. More probably it was self-inflicted.

There was a foolish delusion at almost all of Scotland's troubles were the fault of the English and that as the last Anglo-Scottish war drew to a close, the economic situation would suddenly break through a group of Scottish economists which said that the performance of the Scottish economy might be partly due to external factors but it was not a plague visited on Scotland by a malignant Whitehall. More probably it was self-inflicted.

The second myth is that the wealth of the Scottish economy will be miraculously restored by North Sea oil, and all the more so if Scotland is independent. There can be no question of confidence in that. If the right policies are not adopted, then, as a result of the same oil, Scotland's economic situation would have changed. Scotland would remain an industrial manufacturing economy.

Most important, Sir Geoffrey said, Scotland's problems could be even harder to solve the aftermath of a bitter and protracted divorce from the rest of the kingdom. There could be no confidence that Scotland and the rest of Britain would remain a single trading area, yet that was, and remained, a key feature of the original Act of Union.

How could Scottish industry cope with a possible massive contraction of its domestic market? He also asked what the outlook would be for Scottish industry which was dependent on orders from the United Kingdom public sector.

How much oil revenue would be left if an independent Scotland had to bear its proper share of Britain's present public sector borrowing? How would a nationalist government cope with the dangerously high expectations of independence which would have aroused? Many more political hazards also lay in wait.

The most intractable problem would still be unemployment, and a tax system must be designed that would create new jobs.

The conference unanimously carried a resolution calling on the new Conservative government to institute radical reform of the whole taxation system, so reducing taxation, both individual and corporate, to create financial changes in which hard work and initiative were encouraged.

Proposing the motion, Mr Ian Lang, of the Ayr Conservative Association, said the Government was bound by the dogmas of its leaders and trade union masters. To them, taxation was not just a means of raising money for essential spending. It was an instrument of social policy, a means to bring about revolution.

On North Sea defence, Mr Alastair Bisset, prospective parliamentary candidate for Moray and Nairn, said that those who benefited from North Sea oil should contribute towards its defence.

## No new agency for North, industry minister says

Mr John Charteris, Secretary of State for Scotland, said today that the Government is not set up a regional development agency for the north of England to win support from Labour MPs in a region in its north-eastern Scotland.

Mr Charteris was questioned in a session on Tyne yesterday.

Mr Alan Williams, Minister of State for Industry, said he told a conference on regional policy that to set up such an agency with similar powers to those of the Scottish Development Board would lead to a proliferation of parallel agencies from other English regions.

Mr Williams questioned whether it could achieve anything that was not already being done to create new jobs in high unemployment areas, and whether it would be responsible.

Mr Williams was, however, asked to think again by Mr Giles Radnor, Labour MP for Chester-le-Street. He professed to regard agencies as the only way to create jobs, and said he had been already in Scotland and Wales, he said.

Mr Williams brought some comfort by suggesting the establishment of regional police in the spirit of "substantial pressures" from both parties to end the system of giving special aid to areas with traditionally high unemployment.

## Bradford acts on population forecast

Mr Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent, said a report by the Bradford Council, which is likely to rise in 10 years by about 22,000 to a total of 60,000. Over the same period the number of white people will probably fall by about 15,000 to about 45,000.

The council's report is based on the birth rate figures for the city, which are 17 per cent higher than the national average. The coloured birth rate is three times the white birth rate at present, but the report believes that it will fall over the next few years to less than double.

The report says high unemployment will remain in the immediate future and that there will be more old people to care for in the next 10 years, but one bright note is that Bradford's air is getting cleaner.

Councillor Brian Womersley, chairman of the council's corporate planning panel, said the three-year plan would try to cope with the trends. The report showed there was a need for more government assistance.

## R. D. Laing charged with possessing LSD

Neville Hodgkinson, Dr R. D. Laing, the psychiatrist and author who won an international following with his book on madness and family, is facing a drugs charge.

He is accused of unlawfully possessing 94 ampoules of LSD, appeared before magistrates at Southwark, London, on Monday, and was remanded on £25 bail.

Dr David Offenbach, his solicitor, said yesterday that the charge was brought after police had called at Dr Laing's home in Eton Road, Hampstead, connected with a burglary.

He said the charge was a "sneaky plea of not guilty" and said Laing became a cult figure among young people, social workers and many others during 1960s through his forceful and often poetic exposition of view that much madness was caused through family and social pressures.

He is chairman of the Philadelphia Association, a charity that provides households where people in mental distress can stay when they do not want to go into hospital.

His publications include *The Divided Self* and *Madness and Family*. A new book, *Do I Love Me?*, is to be published by Penguin this month.

This is a cordial invitation to visit not just another art fair but rather an exciting exhibition of modern art sponsored by a non-profit public body and presented by the world's finest art dealers, periodicals and print publishers, selected and invited by a board of art critics.

Walking leisurely through Arte Fiera you will have the opportunity to visit 284 exhibitors, coming from 82 cities, and 21 countries. Buy to-day the art of tomorrow (and yesterday, and of today) in Bologna, a city of fascinating beauty whose gastronomic tradition is second only to its artistic splendour. And don't forget that Bologna is also the starting point for unforgettable trips (Florence, Ferrara, Parma and Ravenna are only an hour drive away).

Arte Fiera Bologna 1-4 June Fair District Piazza Costituzione 6 Telephone: 051/261111 Telex: 320601 Bolartel Cable: Bolartel

## Labour may ease rule on National Front

By Michael Horsnell.

The Labour Party may be forced to reconsider its advice to election candidates not to appear on public platforms with opponents, according to the National Front, Mr Reginald Underhill, the party's national agent, disclosed yesterday.

After the National Front's spectacular advances in last week's local elections Transport House officials are understood to have sent the Front a large number of candidates as the next general election Labour candidates may suffer from under-exposure if they obey the 1974 advice.

Mr Underhill was speaking at the launching of a book on the National Front by Martin Walker, of *The Guardian*, who says that the party can no longer be dismissed as the "immitable fringe" of British politics. He supported Mr Walker's call for the formation of a broadly based anti-fascist coalition of political parties, including the Conservative Party and other bodies to halt the Front's advance.

Mr Underhill said that the economic difficulties of working people and the psychological disturbance of political corruption were the main reasons for the Front's success.

He said: "It is no good calling all those people who voted National Front racists and fascists. Many have been Labour Party supporters. They are misguided. What worries me is the similarity with the way Hitler came to power."

"There are many sections of people voting for the National Front for the same reason that people vote for the British Union of Fascists in the 1930s. Then it was the Jews who were responsible for our troubles. Now it is the Jews but coloured people. Wherever economic problems it is easy to say it is coloured people that are the cause, why we are not getting decent housing and schooling."

"Of course, there is discrimination. There is bound to be when there is unemployment, and the continuing position of rising prices. You add to that, cases of corruption in all parties, and when you have an organization like the National Front, which is able to appeal to the most primitive instincts in people, you have repercussions."

Mr Walker's book traces the far right in Britain from Sir Oswald Mosley's British Union of Fascists to the present National Front.

*The National Front*, by Martin Walker (Fontana, 21).

## New squad clears London of big pornography pedlars

By Clive Borrell.

For the second time in five months former members of Scotland Yard's obscene publications squad, known as the "porn" squad, have been convicted by a jury at the Central Criminal Court for corruption on a scale that most fiction writers would dismiss as too far-fetched.

Six men were sentenced for corruption yesterday; just before Christmas last year five others were sent to prison for similar offences.

The money they received in bribes ran into six figures. In return they operated their own protection racket, tipping off the "porn barons" before raiding their premises and putting competitors out of business if they refused to pay a weekly subscription fee. Pornographic magazines and films, seized in police raids, were sold back to the dealers at half price.

That group of detectives at the Yard was known as the "dirty squad". They fed and thrived on the corruption and pornography they were entrusted to stamp out.

One recruit to the squad was so disgusted by the racket that he pleaded for a transfer. His superior officer, former DCI Chief Supt. William Moody, agreed to his request, on payment of £100.

By 1972, after eight years of uninterrupted and seemingly uncorruptible corruption, Sir Robert Mark, then the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, decided that it was time to reorganize the force. The investigation of pornography became the responsibility of a new squad, formed of CID men and uniform officers.

Slowly the CID men were phased out; now it is exclusively manned by uniform officers under the control of Commander Kenneth Hanson, assisted by Chief Inspector John Hoddinott.

It has achieved a remarkable victory in the fight against the sale of pornography in London.

The operators who made several thousand pounds a week from pornography, described by one defence counsel at the latest trial as "monstrously evil men who lived among the sewerage of society", were hounded out of business. Some were prosecuted and imprisoned.

The newly constituted squad purged the West End of London of the pedlars. Trade in pornography has dwindled to less than a fifth of what it was in the late 1960s and early 1970s and it continues to decline. Magazines, which at one time would cost £5 a copy, are worth little more than 51 now.

A senior Scotland Yard officer said: "There just is not the money in it any more; certainly not enough even to tempt a police officer."

It was just five years ago that Det. Chief Supt. Moody stood in No 2 Court at the Central Criminal Court and was congratulated by Mr Justice Shaw (now Lord Justice Shaw) for his part in investigating a case of two corrupt detectives. He was commended as the two officers, an inspector and a sergeant, were waiting to be taken to prison to face sentences of five and three years respectively for demanding money from a criminal.

Two reporters of *The Times* were also congratulated by the judge for exposing the two officers, and assisting the police in their subsequent investigation.

## John Poulson freed

Mr John Poulson, aged 67, the former architect, was released from Lincoln prison on parole yesterday after serving just over three years of a seven-year sentence for corruption.

## Ghanaian freed but still to be deported

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent.

A Ghanaian whose pregnant wife is expected to give birth in Britain and wishes to be released from Pentonville prison after representations on his behalf, but is still to be deported.

The baby is expected in August, and it is understood no order for removal is likely to be made before then. Meanwhile, Mr Albert Prempeh, the Ghanaian, has to report once a week to the police. He came to Britain in July, 1975, as a visitor for three months, but was fined £200 in November for overstaying and recommended for deportation. He was not detained because he told the court he was returning to Ghana.

He married in December, having given notice to the registrar in October. A deportation order was signed on February 4. His family say he was arrested on March 9 and was taken to Pentonville.

Mr R. A. MacDonald, Mr Prempeh's solicitor, told me the Home Office now wished to look further at details of the dissolution of Mr Prempeh's previous marriage in Ghana. Mr MacDonald said an affidavit by the first wife saying that the marriage had been dissolved had been produced on April 15.

The Home Office says that under the new immigration rules a husband has no claim to stay if he has remained in breach of the immigration laws before marriage or if the marriage has taken place after he has been recommended for deportation. It says that when the couple were interviewed officials were far from convinced that the case justified setting aside the court's decision.

An inquest jury at Thirsk, North Yorkshire, has rejected the conclusion of a coroner that a mother murdered her young son before taking her own life. Instead, they decided that Simon Carter, aged four, died by accident after hearing how his mother might have had second thoughts and attempted to save him.

Police who broke in to their cottage found the body of Mrs Kathleen Carter, aged 26, with the boy on her knee. She had surrounded him with his books to distract him as she died.

Nearby was an envelope and a piece of newspaper on which was written: "Daddy come and see me on Saturday". That was the day the police made their discovery at Chapel Cottage, Sand Hutton, near Thirsk.

It was added, Mrs Carter and her son were on the settee in their nightclothes and both had died from a overdose of drugs.

Mr Peter Hatch, the coroner, said they must be forced to the conclusion that Mrs Carter was responsible for her child's death by administering tablets to him. Although it was natural to fight away from a murder verdict, he said, a verdict of accidental death would be stretching the facts beyond all reason and even a manslaughter verdict would be contrary to the facts.



Jubilee shields: A selection from more than eighty shields showing the arms of City livery companies which are to be displayed along Cheapside for the Queen's silver jubilee. They were shown outside Guildhall yesterday by Mr Ian Smith, of the City of London engineers' department.

## Why woman drivers have accidents

By Our Motoring Correspondent.

Women drivers are not necessarily worse than men but they behave differently on the road and tend to have more accidents because of inexperience or unfamiliarity with the vehicle, according to a Government report published yesterday.

It found that women were more easily distracted, failed to look before taking action and even when they did look, often did not see hazards. They were less experienced in the art of driving and more likely to be careless.

The report, by the Transport and Road Research Laboratory, is based on a study of 2,654 drivers, including 500 women, who were involved in more than 2,000 accidents over a four-year period in south-east Berkshire.

Women were more likely to be involved in an accident as a result of "perceptual errors". In errors relating to skill, women featured proportionately nearly twice as often as men. But men and women had an almost equal chance of being in an accident as a result of an error in their manner of driving.

Male errors often resulted from travelling too fast or improper overtaking, while women tended not to take sufficient care before manoeuvring. The right turn, especially entering a major road from a minor one, presented difficulties for the less experienced woman driver.

Alcohol was the largest feature in the accidents investigated and was a predominantly male issue. A total of 28 per cent of male drivers had consumed alcohol in the 12 hours before an accident. Twice as many women as men had taken drugs, either medically prescribed or proprietary pain killers. The report says many are taken for menstruation, pregnancy and the menopause.

Women have more accidents on weekends than men, who tend to have more accidents after dark and at weekends.

## Leyland pays off £3,000-a-year men with no job

British Leyland issued dismissal notices yesterday to 20 workers who for three months had each been receiving £50 a week for doing nothing at its car body factory at Castle Bromwich, West Midlands. Their severance pay varied between one month's and four months', and there was no factory-floor reaction to their dismissal.

When the management closed the plant's paint shop, the workers concerned were told they would have to move to other jobs, but it was agreed that cases of men unwilling or unable to change jobs would be referred to the General Motors' Union at national level. A total of 340 men ultimately accepted alternative work, leaving the 20 unemployed. Jobs threatened, page 17.

## Nurses end protest

More than 200 nurses at the Princess Marina Hospital for the mentally handicapped at Upton, Northamptonshire, called a work-to-rule yesterday after the management agreed to allocate nearly £30,000 to recruit 16 extra staff.

## Hint that Conservatives would try for voluntary deal with unions

By Christopher Thomas, Labour Reporter.

Mr Prior, the opposition spokesman on employment, hinted yesterday that a Conservative government would seek a voluntary pay pact with the trade unions. It would "make every effort to avoid any return to a statutory incomes policy", he said.

He made it clear that industrial relations legislation would be avoided "except where absolutely required", but was not explicit about the areas considered ripe for parliamentary intervention.

Mr Prior, speaking in Bournemouth, advocated the use of public money to allow unions to conduct their elections in secret by post. Alternatively, elections should be carried out on company premises and in company time.

He said the Conservatives would do nothing to undermine any incomes policy which the Labour Government could reach with the unions. But "if there is a tight control of the money supply and the beginnings of a wages explosion, then this must be reflected in much higher unemployment a little later on".

Mr Prior also suggested a moratorium on worker-directors for three to four years, after which the practices of the "best companies" should be consolidated into legislation.

His promise to try to avoid a statutory incomes policy will obviously be welcomed by the unions, but it comes as no surprise after the conflict over pay during Mr Heath's Administration.

As for the possibility of reaching a voluntary incomes policy, the unions would seek in return a close involvement in the handling of the economy, and there is some doubt whether the Conservatives would go that far.

Mr Prior's suggestion for giving state funds to allow secret postal balloting in union elections is designed to benefit "moderate" candidates, who usually do better in postal voting than in elections at union branch meetings, where low attendance is generally believed to favour left-wing candidates.

The General and Municipal Workers' Union, third biggest of the unions, last night welcomed Mr Prior's "conversion" to the social contract but added that a pay deal would be impossible unless the unions had an involvement in the management of the economy.

## Mr Steel gives terms for extending pact

By Our Political Staff.

David Steel, the Liberal leader, said yesterday in the Isle of Wight that he would not lose his nerve on the Lab-Lib pact. "We have set a course of sustaining the Government on an agreed programme in the national interest, and we intend to keep to it". It involved give and take.

Soon we shall have to decide whether to extend this Lab-Lib pact into another session and join in writing the programme (the Queen's Speech) for it."

He said there would be two considerations. First, direct elections to the European Parliament, with proportional representation and secondly, and more important, the attack on inflation.

Liberals would support the new controls on price increases, although they awaited the next phase of the social contract. Mr Steel said he thought there was little chance of Mrs Thatcher and Sir Keith Joseph achieving a policy of incomes restraint. The alternative was "ghastly to contemplate".

Mr Ian Mikardo, the guru of the Tribune group in the Parliamentary Labour Party, said at the East Anglia University Labour Club in Norwich that "the Prime Minister and the Chancellor are not just patiently reconciled to the fact that their policies are grossly unpopular". Sometimes they almost revelled in their unpopularity, because they thought it proved that they were doing was right.

The Government had the worst of all worlds, he said. "They have achieved unpopularity which is not working, which is not going to work, and which they ought to change."

Mr David Howell, an Opposition spokesman on Treasury affairs, said in Bournemouth that the house of cards that sustained the Labour Government could collapse at any moment. As soon as Liberal supporters realized what Liberal MPs in Parliament were up to, it would tumble down.

Mr John Pardoe, Liberal economic spokesman, said in a Cardiff speech that the Lab-Lib agreement had achieved "solid results": reduction in the Budget deficit, reduction in the VAT threshold, and consumer representation on the Post Office board.

"The agreement must be judged by its ability to influence future policy". Everything would now depend on the Government's willingness to agree a future programme of legislation for the British people as a whole.

## Reform of EEC agricultural policy urged

The EEC's common agricultural policy should be reformed because it is biased towards the inefficient producer and against the consumer, Mr Douglas Hurd, Conservative spokesman on European affairs, said last night. Reform could best come about through the price mechanism.

Speaking at Begbroke, Oxfordshire, he said that in the April farm prices agreement Mr Silkin, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, had wanted a scapegoat for the Government's mistakes and misfortunes.

"His concern is to discredit Europe in the eyes of Britain," The Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary must pay more attention to Europe than in recent months.

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## WEST EUROPE

## Italian move to stop interference with justice

From Patricia Clough

Rome, May 13. The Italian Cabinet today approved a package of measures to combat the latest forms of political and common crime: attacks and threats against justice officials, interference with the process of law and prison escapes.

The most serious case was the enforced suspension of the trial of alleged left-wing terrorists when jurymen, terrified by death threats, refused to serve.

The measures include stiff punishment for interference with courts, constitutional organs and regional assemblies, for threats to people involved in trials and for attacks on members of Parliament, the judiciary, the police and prison officials.

Left-wing groups and Signor Francesco Cossiga, the Interior Minister, today blamed each other for yesterday's grave incidents between police and youths in Rome in which a 19-year-old woman was shot dead and many people were injured.

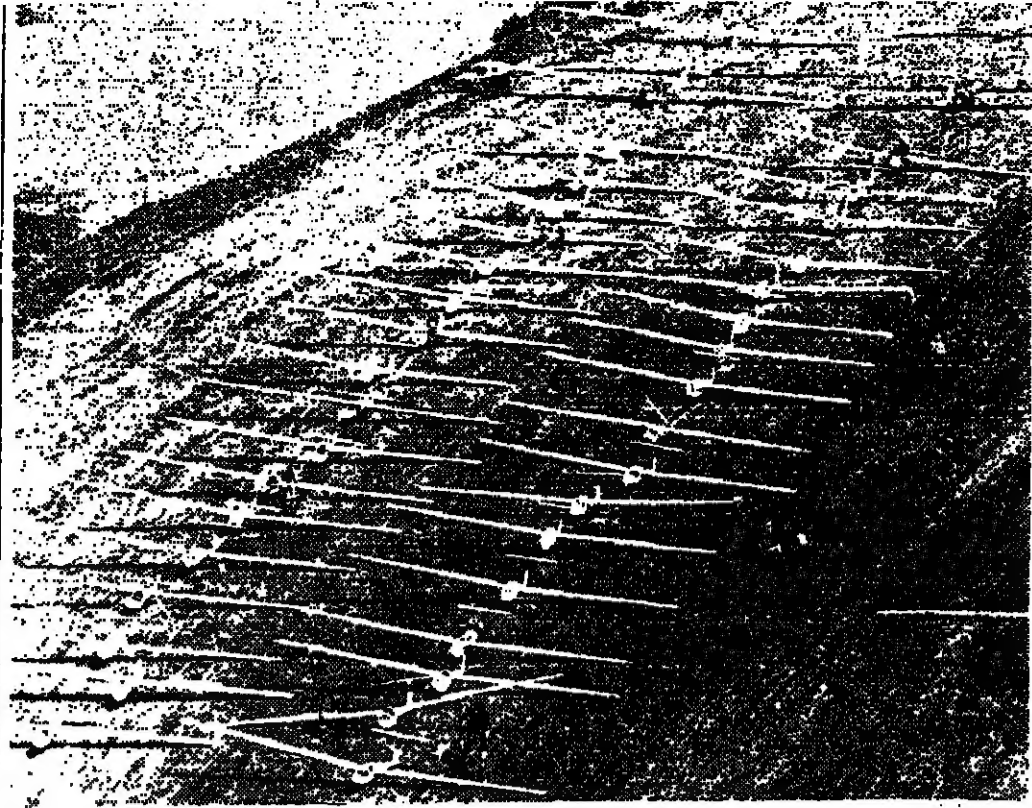
As they exchanged accusations, students were preparing to defy the Government's five-week ban on demonstrations with four marches through working-class districts of Rome. They called on supporters to defend themselves if police tried to disperse them.

Seven people were injured today during a demonstration by schoolchildren who attacked Christian Democratic and Neo-Fascist party branches with petrol bombs in a Rome suburb.

Fifteen police cars were damaged last night when a bomb blew up in a police garage. Police arrested a group of people belonging to a student movement who they said were found in possession of explosives.

Tension was running high here after five hours of street fighting last night. The trouble started after a huge police force prevented a pop festival organized by the non-violent, civil rights-oriented Radical Party.

The incidents started with what eyewitnesses described as unprovoked tear gas charges by police against young people.



Gliners grounded by bad weather in the first day of the Swiss Sailplane Championship yesterday.

## Turin court told of chemical plant where workers died of cancer

Turin, May 13.—Five officials of a dye factory are being tried in Turin on charges of multiple manslaughter and causing serious physical harm after allegations that in the last 20 years 132 of the factory workers have died of cancer of the bladder.

In 32 of the cases the cause of death was officially attributed to toxic chemicals handled at the aniline dye factory in the Piedmontese town of Cirie. Cirie is about 100 miles from Seveso, where a cloud of dioxin escaped from a factory last summer and contaminated the homes of hundreds of people.

The five defendants at the trial, which opened last month, are the factory's three owners, the general manager and the factory doctor. A sixth defendant, the technical director, died before the trial opened.

The main witnesses are from 13 families of dead or sick workers from the factory, the Industriale Piemontese Coloranti All'anilina (IPCA). Nine more families withdrew from the case in return for compensation from the company.

The factory was criticized in 1953 for using two dangerous compounds, benzenanthracene and benzidine, without taking adequate precautions. They have been banned since 1952 in several countries, but not in Italy.

Trade union members often asked for more hygienic working conditions. "But the management told us the cost of converting equipment would bankrupt the company," Signor Renato Garini, aged 61, who worked at IPCA from 1948 to 1971, told the court.

He also said that factory inspectors received three complaints, but failed to demand improvements.

Company doctors advised workers suffering from bladder pain to "drink less and the pain will pass away," Signor Garini said, and a widow told the court that her husband's wooden shoes were eaten away by chemicals at the factory in a few days.

It was claimed that workers often failed to complain because the factory assured steady wages. Most employees were former peasants interested mainly in tending their gardens after work.

A union spokesman said that some workers with dangerous jobs were only required to work six hours a day, but worked 12 to make more money.

For the first time in Italy, trade unions have been allowed to take civil action against a company alongside the families.

—Agence France-Press and Reuters.

## A gruesome competition for German readers

From Dan van der Vat

Bonn, May 13

Readers of today's issue of West Germany's most popular newspaper, *Bild* of Hamburg, have the chance to win a "golden month" free of all household bills, on one uniquely gruesome condition.

All the reader has to do to win is to work out, in a cruelly simple giveaway "competition," the name of a variety of cancer. He then writes the magic word on a postcard and sends it to Hamburg.

The postage costs the equivalent of 10p, but otherwise entry is free. Afterwards, he needs to win the draw from the sacks of correct entries.

Today's type of cancer has, in German, 16 letters in its name, of which the newspaper has obligingly already filled in eight.

In case this is still too hard for the more than five million people who buy the newspaper every day, the entire word is to be found in an accompanying account of the prize.

The article coyly emphasizes that her name has been changed, presumably to save her embarrassment. It also points out that the solution-word is to be found in full in the case-history.

This brief account describes how the sufferer awoke one night after night bathed in perspiration and with unbearably itchy skin. The doctor at first prescribed vitamin pills and rest, but to no avail.

At last, she noticed that certain glands were swollen. In hospital, the diagnosis was Hodgkin's disease, or cancer of the lymph glands or, to give it its German name, Lymphdrüsenkrebs. This must be the solution-word.

Today's is the eleventh consecutive issue of the newspaper in which such a competition has appeared. Each round produces one winner, and so far *Bild*, if my detailed detective work is right, has worked its way through cancer of the lung, stomach, skin, bones, prostate gland, larynx, breast, brain and intestines, as well as the lymph glands.

Medical classifications vary, but there are between 17 and 28 further varieties of cancer, for the newspaper to choose from as it works its way through its "golden month" of malignancies.

Although the standard of taste in this unprecedented competition is open to question, the cause it supports is new. The unimpeachably witty Dr. Mildred Scheel, the West German President's wife has lent her name to it. Frau Scheel, a highly qualified radiologist, devotes much of her time to fighting cancer.

As a newspaper put it on the opening day of the series, "this campaign is meant not only to inform, prevent and assist but also to be fun."

Each day it urges its readers to send money to the national campaign against cancer. The paper has opened a special post office account in Cologne to handle the flow of contributions.

Commissars of the irrefragable *Bild* will, if they are honest, cause this extraordinary stunt as a masterpiece. The newspaper has been offering up its readership for years in such a way that it is bound to succeed.

If this cancer contest does nothing else, it shows that *Bild* is always ready to extend its readership to the boundaries of the journalistic possible.

fighting inflation, accepted high unemployment.

Dr. Kreisky said Efta had provided the first test of free trade in Europe and had experienced a "tremendous and unexpected development."

The seven nations of Efta—Austria, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Portugal, Sweden and Switzerland—are discussing trade strategy in face of growing competition from the powerful EEC.

Portugal is about to defect to the EEC and Greece and Spain may become members. The Efta nations will be the losers from these developments.

While Rössing is the only mine producing uranium at present, there are believed to be other substantial uranium deposits in the area. Most of the South African mining companies as well as French and

to cut down on it. The new levels would mainly affect soft drink manufacturers.

The spokesman added: "The tablets of saccharin which one puts in tea or coffee are acceptable because the permitted quantity for a person who weighs 70 kilos (11 stones) is about 20 tablets of saccharin a day."—Reuters.

will have a total of seven portfolios, the Government will include the Centre Party, the Liberals and the Swedish People's Party. Together they will also hold seven portfolios.

The Finnish minister will be a non-socialist "professional" minister.

Mr. Paavo Väyrynen, the vice-chairman of the Centre Party, will be Foreign Minister. Other ministerial positions are still under discussion.

The new Government will concentrate on trying to reduce the 6 per cent rate of unemployment, partly by flooding a large foreign loan.

The bank has been following a stringent monetary policy and

## OVERSEAS

## Mr Nixon tells how Mrs Gandhi was stopped at last moment from 'gobbling up West Pakistan'

From Patrick Brogan

Washington, May 13

Former President Nixon's second television interview with David Frost was quite different from the first. This time he talked about foreign affairs, his chief speciality. He was master of the subject, had many fascinating details of his experience to reveal and was quite at ease in doing so.

The show, therefore, had little in common with the earlier interview about Watergate, in which Mr Nixon was on the defensive, unsure of himself, finding excuses and trying to escape from accusations.

He gave a graphic example last night of how relations between the United States and the Soviet Union and China can affect the world at large. He claimed that during the war between India and Pakistan, Mrs Gandhi, once her troops had gained the upper hand in East Pakistan, decided to turn her armies against West Pakistan.

According to Mr Nixon, the Chinese then intervened strongly with the Americans to save the Pakistanis. The Americans, who shared the same objective, intervened with the Russians, asking them, in turn, to get the Indians to pull back.

"It was then that we made the move that we did make," Mr Nixon said. "It was then that I ordered the carrier task force into the Indian Ocean. We sent a very sharp note, of course, to the Russians."

He went on to say: "Unless that had happened I believe she would have taken West Pakistan. She would have gobbled it up and that would have had dramatic consequences."

Turning to Israel's urgent request for arms in the summer of 1973, Mr Nixon said Dr Kissinger, the Secretary of State, had not wanted to send too many arms because it might destroy the chances of negotiations in the future "if our profile was too high."

Mr Nixon said he decided the issue by saying: "Look, Henry, we are going to get just as much blame for sending three (aircraft) or 30 or 100 or what ever we've got to send everything that flies. The main thing is to make it work."

Mr Nixon compared Mr Brezhnev, the Soviet party leader, favourably with Mr Khrushchev. He said that Mr Brezhnev "was not as quick as Khrushchev intellectually" but he was "far better mannered than Khrushchev, a man who did not have an inferiority complex even though he knew they were inferior in certain ways."

"Another difference is Khrushchev tried to put on the air of being just a communist personality person. He would dress with the sloppy hat, and the collar wouldn't be too clean, whereas Brezhnev was something of a fashion plate. He liked beautiful cars, beautiful women, a good dining, Brezhnev, Podgorny and Kozlov all wore cufflinks. None of the Soviet Party in 1959 wore cufflinks. Things have changed."

Canadian firms have now joined in the search. With world uranium prices about five times what they were three or four years ago, they clearly feel that the huge investments involved are justified.

Uranium is only the tip of Namibia's minerals iceberg. In the south, at Oranjemund, Consolidated Diamond Mines produces hundreds of millions of pounds worth of diamonds out of the sand each year. In the north, at Tsumeb, has been developed into one of the great base-metal mines of the world producing copper, lead and zinc.

Mr Des Mathews, chairman of the Chamber of Mines in Windhoek, says companies from almost every Western country are showing increasing interest in mineral prospecting in Namibia. "Some are already taking out prospecting rights, but others are waiting to see how the political situation develops."

Most people involved in mining would like to see the country become independent under the Tsumeb, the multi-ethnic conference set up by South Africa in an attempt to provide an alternative to a Swapo takeover after Pretoria.

But most also feel they could live with a Swapo government so long as it did not indulge in widespread nationalisation.

Father Festus Mahoro, Swapo's secretary for foreign affairs, who lives in a black township close to Rössing, says Swapo is not opposed in principle to the continued presence of multinational companies in Namibia.

However he is very critical of Rio Tinto, which, he claims, is operating in Namibia, in breach of United Nations resolutions, and supports apartheid by segregating its workers.

The company will not get any protection from the government of a free Namibia, he says.

For the mining companies the next round of talks between the five Western countries and the South African Government will be crucial in determining which way the political barometer will swing.

French experts say Hughes 'will' authentic

Marseilles, May 13.—French handwriting experts who examined a will of the late Howard Hughes, the American financier, have told a Las Vegas court they believe it is genuine.

The handwritten document, known as the "Mormon will" because it was found in a Mormon church in Salt Lake City, Utah, is dated 1968 and stipulates the sharing of \$5,000 (£3,000m) between nine people.

Since Mr Hughes died on April 5 last year a total of 30 "wills" have been discovered in the United States. The "Mormon will" was sent to the Marseilles regional police laboratory in October for examination. Earlier a judge in Clark County, Nevada, ruled that the three-page document was a crude imitation.—Reuters.

freed so far has been Mr Paul Goma, the writer, who was released earlier this month after five weeks' detention. Since regaining his freedom he has refused to meet foreign journalists to whom, only a short time ago, he had been eager to talk; presumably he has now given an undertaking to the authorities to keep silent.

Some of the signatures of the human rights appeals have been offered. Indemnities to drop their promises; jobs were promised to some who did not

The new class in the Union is doing pretty well. Of Chairman Mao, he visited in 1972, Mr Nixon said: "He had already suffered a partial stroke. He had helped to stand up by a handshake. But he was proud that way."

"In this case they were girls lifted him up and then he walked over to them. He said that Mao had difficulty in making his undershirt. He talked the monosyllabically. It was clear that he was having trouble in getting the shirt out. They were sort of groans, but the interpreters took things down."

"But then, whenever interpretation was made, would listen, and then would nod his head, and would reach over and take pen from her and then he would write out the answer."

The former President observed that Chairman Mao's hands "never got old. They were very fine, delicate. And yet we must recognize that he was a tough, leader. But it didn't show in his hands."

At the close of his press conference yesterday, President Carter was asked about the Nixon interview. He said that he missed most of it, but that he had seen that it had changed his view that he was guilty of an impeachment offence. However, he did not think that Mr Nixon believed he was guilty.

Namibia's uranium wealth spurs Western nations to independence initiative

From Nicholas Ashford

Rössing, South-West Africa, May 13

The lunar landscape of the Namib Desert, in western Namibia (South-West Africa) is an inhospitable place at the best of times. It has been made more so by the presence of the Rössing uranium mine, about 40 miles inland from Swakopmund.

Visitors are not welcome at Rössing, particularly journalists. A visiting television reporter who tried to film the entrance found himself surrounded by police who took his film.

Although security is laid down by the South African Atomic Energy Act, Rio Tinto, the mine's operator and largest shareholder, says it would like to be more forthcoming, but there is unwillingness to do so because of the change so long as South Africa continues to administer the territory.

Production started last year, 10 years after development began. When full production is reached, which should be early next year, according to Mr John Rössing, Rössing's executive director, the mine will have an annual output of 5,000 tons of uranium oxide, about a sixth of the non-communist world's total production.

It is this fact, together with Namibia's potential wealth in other minerals, which has aroused the sudden Western interest in finding a political solution in Namibia.

The West wants to see an independent government of Namibia which includes the nationalist South-West African People's Organisation (Swapo) but is sufficiently "moderate" to allow companies like Rio Tinto to continue operating.

"Our uranium is of the greatest political importance," Mr Rössing says. "It would be of great benefit to the Swapo if it fell into their hands."

While Rössing is the only mine producing uranium at present, there are believed to be other substantial uranium deposits in the area. Most of the South African mining companies as well as French and

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Several new schools to be built in Soweto

Johannesburg, May 13.—The South African authorities yesterday announced a plan to build several new schools in Soweto, the black township of Johannesburg, to accommodate 7,000 students.

The scheme was announced by Mr Jap Strydom, the Soweto director of education, as children in three of the township's schools were boycotting classes in protest against the Bantu education system.

Construction work on four of the schools, one secondary and three junior, will begin at once, Mr Strydom said in a lengthy statement which failed to mention the student unrest that resulted in some 600 deaths in South African townships last year.

Trouble has been brewing in

have them on political grounds, and in other cases passports were offered.

Nevertheless, the direct of retribution has been kept in reserve. All those detained were warned that contact with foreigners would be regarded as a crime for which they would be taken back into custody and charged with treason and conspiracy.

Many intellectuals, the Baptist community among them, allege that during their interrogation they were threatened with such charges.

The commission will examine all legislation which sets aside jobs on racial lines.

Episcopalians woman rector

New York, May 13.—The Rev Beverly Messenger-Harris is to become rector of an Episcopal church in Sherill, New York state, the first woman to hold such a position.

The Episcopalians are the American branch of the Anglican communion, and officially began the ordination of women on January 1. Mrs Messenger-Harris was ordained on January 8.

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## Mitterrand rejection of Marchais costing

From Charles Hargrove

Paris, May 13

M. François Mitterrand, the Socialist leader, refuses to accept the Communists' estimates of the cost of carrying out the common programme of the left, published earlier this week. He is to see M. Georges Marchais, the Communist leader, on Tuesday to discuss the updating of the common programme of 1972.

This was just about the only real revelation that emerged from last night's television debate between M. Barre, the Prime Minister, and M. Mitterrand which is reported to have been watched by some 28 million people.

The two-hour discussion was devoted almost exclusively to economic, monetary and social affairs, with only a 10-minute excursion into foreign politics, and very little domestic politics, save by implication.

As generally expected, the Communists' publication of their astronomical estimates of the cost of implementing the common programme of the left proved a source of acute embarrassment to M. Mitterrand.

M. Barre skillfully exploited his advantage in the utmost. "The Communists were not nice to you," he remarked ironically.

Distinctly on the defensive on this point, M. Mitterrand said that what the Communists had costed was a Communist programme, not the common programme of the left. There was no question of the Socialists' accepting the application of a programme which exceeded

it on all sides. There were a certain number of economic realities which had to be observed.

"Fortunately," M. Mitterrand added a little pointedly, "there is a great Socialist Party which will give all its chances to the Union of the Left."

The Socialist leader has certainly let himself in for some awkward discussions with his Communist opposite number. A cartoon today sums up the position by showing M. Marchais watching last night's gentlemanly duel with a sledge hammer hidden behind his back.

The general view in the press today is that the Prime Minister won easily on points. The other revelation of the evening was that of M. Barre as a formidable debater, displaying an impressive pugnacity which contrasted with what M. Mitterrand usually exerts.

M. Barre not only defended his policy, but a liberal pattern of society, based on efficiency, stability and common sense, as well as on progress and justice. He called it the "significant improvement" of the policy proposed by M. Mitterrand.

"Your problem is that you want to govern an imaginary France in an imaginary world," he said. If the left came to power he feared M. Mitterrand would be a hostage of the Communists.

M. Jacques Chirac, the Gaullist leader, said today that last night's performance, his conviction that the Government majority would win the coming election had been strengthened.

Quebec 'not your goddam business' French are told

From Our Own Correspondent

Paris, May 13. Quebec's separatist aspirations are "a strictly internal problem in which the French have no goddam business to interfere," Mr Trudeau, the Canadian Prime Minister, told a press conference here today.

He had said earlier, however, that he was convinced President Giscard d'Estaing and the French Government "will do or say nothing on the subject which can be construed as interference in Canada's internal affairs."

In fact, the subject was not discussed when Mr Trudeau and the President met for talks after a luncheon.

Briton jailed for drug smuggling

Marseilles, May 13.—Timothy Edwards, aged 29, a writer from Plymouth, was sentenced to six years imprisonment and a fine of 1,610,000 francs (about £185,000) for drug smuggling.

He was arrested on October 31, 1975 when customs officers discovered 173lb of cannabis in his car on arrival from Morocco. Fines in such cases are largely symbolic and usually are settled by confiscation of the vehicle and payments consistent with the income of the person involved.—AP.

## EEC agreement with sugar producers

From Michael Hornsby

Brussels, May 13

The EEC and African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries agreed in principle today to a guaranteed price for the 1,250,000 tonnes of sugar the Community is pledged to import from ACP producers during the 1977-78 crop year. This runs from May 1 until June 30 of next year.

The price has been set at 272.5 units of account a tonne, which ACP sources estimate to be equivalent to £215 a tonne. This represents an increase of only about 2 per cent over last year's price.

However, the ACP producers have been given an assurance by Tate and Lyle, the British refiners who buy virtually all their sugar, that they can expect in practice to receive a market price "of not less than 282 units of account" (£220) a tonne.

Although this still falls short of what the ACP negotiators had been demanding, and Tate and Lyle's commitment is not legally binding, the sugar producers reluctantly accepted that they had got a reasonable deal, given the lower level of world prices.

Speaking after the conclusion of the negotiations, Mr George King, the Trade Minister of Guyana who led the ACP delegation, said he and his colleagues could "live with the compromise agreed, provided the assurances from the refiners are honoured." He had no reason to suppose they would not be.

Mr King said he was "very unhappy" however, that the EEC had refused to backdate the period over which the new price will apply beyond May 1. This would mean a serious "erosion of earnings" for those ACP producers which had already shipped their sugar.

Mr King also complained about the way the EEC interprets the relevant provisions of the Lomé Convention which stipulate that the ACP countries should receive a price "within the range" of prices paid to the Community's own sugar producers.

Warm welcome in Bonn for Mr Jenkins

From Our Own Correspondent

Bonn, May 13. Mr Roy Jenkins, President of the European Commission, found much sympathy in Bonn today for his view that the Community should be better represented at future Western economic summit meetings.

During a press conference at the end of his first official visit to Bonn as President, Mr Jenkins described his exclusion from the first and inclusion in the second half of last week's Downing Street conference as artificial and illogical. He hoped for better things next time.

But he thought that he had been able to make a useful contribution on behalf of the Community and its five smaller members not present at the summit.

His discussions here



# Mr Sadat predicts improvement in relations with Russia

From Robert Elak.  
Cairo, May 13. President Sadat of Egypt suggested today that a striking improvement in relations between Egypt and the Soviet Union could be expected before the reconvened Geneva peace conference.

His statement, in the kind of cautious language which he has used these days when referring to Egypt's fractured relationship with the Russians, was made at the end of a three-day visit to Cairo by President Cassouet of Romania, a potential mediator in the long-standing Egyptian-Soviet dispute.

At a press conference held by both leaders at the end of their talks, President Sadat was asked whether he thought a successful Geneva peace conference might be held in the near future. He replied that the Egyptian-Soviet relationship was in a "new phase" and that a "development" in this regard would be announced by the Egyptian Minister in Parliament tomorrow.

He gave no indication what kind of "development" he had



President Sadat of Egypt.

in mind although Mr. Sadat said that the Foreign Ministry is due to address the People's Assembly in Cairo tomorrow on a May Day speech in Alexandria that Egypt was going to "operate" Zaire's Air Force against the rebels in Shaba province who, he implied, were being supported by the Soviet Union. In fact, Egypt is believed to have sent only 12 pilots and two helicopter pilots, and some ground crew to Zaire.

President Cassouet said that he and Mr. Sadat had discussed the dispute with Russia and that Romania was taking part in the relations between Egypt and its former military ally.

He said, however, that his possible role as a mediator in the Middle East conflict, Romania is the only East block state to recognize Israel.

He denied that he was attempting to promote the mutual recognition of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization. "We have not had a role in this matter," he said, although he was open to include the territorial integrity of "all states" in the area as one of the criteria of a Middle East settlement.

President Sadat pointed out that Romania was taking part in the preparations for a Geneva conference.

Despite the coolness in relations with the Soviet Union, he replied, "and in spite of the problems we may have faced, I want to say that in regard to a solution of the Middle East crisis there has never been any difference of opinion. There will probably be a new development in this regard, and this development will be announced by the Egyptian Minister in Parliament tomorrow."

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## World pilots ban flights to 'unsafe' Greece

By Arthur Reed  
Air Correspondent

Flights to Greece are being seriously affected as a result of the decision yesterday by the International Federation of Air Line Pilots (IFALP) to advise its members to suspend operations there.

IFALP took this action after what it termed "unqualified" military air traffic controllers in Greece had replaced civilian air traffic control staff, who are on strike.

The takeover had "diminished the level of safety to an unacceptably low level".

IFALP has 60,000 members belonging to 60 member associations, including the British Air Line Pilots' Association.

IFALP said the strike by the Greek civil controllers is planned to last 10 days.

In deciding to ban flights under Greek military control, IFALP president, and members of its board had in mind the serious mid-air collision between two airlines over northern France in 1973.

On that occasion, French civil controllers were on strike and the military were in charge.

British Airways said yesterday it stopped flying to Greece late on Thursday night. Two scheduled services from London to Athens were cancelled yesterday.

It said passengers who had booked holidays to Greece and who were unable to fly would be offered an alternative destination, a holiday at a later date, or a refund.

Sydney: Australian air traffic controllers ended a six-day strike yesterday, allowing airlines to begin transporting up to 50,000 people stranded in Australia and overseas.

Stockholm: A pay strike by 3,000 white collar workers shut down all domestic passenger air services in Sweden yesterday.

An unrelated strike by Swedish and Norwegian cabin crew of Scandinavian Airlines (SAS) since May 9 has grounded its scheduled flights between Scandinavia and South American destinations.

Reuters.

## China enters arms 'race' against time

By Arthur Reed  
Air Correspondent

Peking, May 13.—China has finally decided to manufacture modern weapons as quickly as possible for national defence.

The decision appears to close the gap between China and the West in the arms race.

In a speech last Monday to the national industrial conference in progress in Peking, Marshal Ye Chien-ying, the Defence Minister, told the 10,000 delegates that China must take steel as the key-link for the growth of its basic industries.

Without steel, he said, "we will not have enough modern arms and equipment, means of reconnaissance and highly developed communications and command systems."

In a long excerpt of the speech published today in the official Chinese press, Marshal Ye said the rivalry between the Soviet Union and the United States could lead to "a big war at an early date."

China's defence industries were engaged in a "race against time."

Hongkong: Chairman Hua Kuo-feng has predicted an "all-round leap forward" in China's economy in a speech on Monday he emphasized the need to continue to adhere to the policies formulated by Chairman Mao Tse-tung for developing the national economy on socialist principles.

The speech, under the direction of the Politburo, Agency France-Press.

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Officials described the tremor as an "after-shock" from last July's earthquake which reduced Tangshan to rubble.

But once again, more than 700,000 were not in the city.

They also referred to serious economic repercussions. Tangshan, once a city of more than a million, was an important coal-mining centre. The earthquake caused fuel shortages that resulted in industrial plants closing down.—Reuters.

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## Devastated Chinese city hit by new earthquake

By Arthur Reed  
Air Correspondent

Peking, May 13.—The devastated Chinese city of Tangshan has been hit by another earthquake, the latest of a series of shocks that have left about 700,000 dead and seriously weakened the national economy.

Officials reported today that an earthquake measuring 6.5 on the Richter scale struck yesterday. The shock was felt over a wide area.

The epicentre was identified as Ningbo, a railway town close to Tangshan and Tianjin, China's third biggest city, with a population of several million.

The earthquake was felt over 100 miles away, and followed by fresh tremors. After sweltering in tropical humidity yesterday, the capital was lashed by storms. Snow fell on

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## SPORT

### Cricket



The executive committee of the Cricket Council in session at Lord's yesterday. From left to right: J. G. Overy, Jack Bailey, Doug Insole (chairman of TCCB), J. F. W. Davies (vice-chairman of Council), F. R. Brown (chairman), Donald Carr (Secretary of TCCB), Gubby Allen, Sabba Row and David Lush.

## Setback to England's recovery

Continued from page 1

considerate person might be his undoing.

What has to be remembered, of course, is that he is an Englishman not by birth or upbringing, but only by adoption. It is not the same thing as being English through and through.

At the same time, I do believe that making the England team into a winning one has meant a great deal to him. There was a lot of truth in what he had to say after the Melbourne Test about the strength of his team's spirit.

For this reason, whoever is appointed to succeed Greig will have a difficult job. Within moments of being informed of the Cricket Council's decision, the England selectors met at the other end of the Lord's pavilion to decide where to go from here. The favourite for the captaincy must be Michael Bevan, of Middlesex, who was Greig's understudy in India.

If, when they meet, the mem-

ber counties of the ICC decide that no one shall be considered for his country while giving priority to the cause of Mr. Packer, Australia, West Indies and Pakistan, as well as England, are all going to have a lot of rebuilding to do. I hope yet that some compromise may be reached. It should be possible. It might even have happened already, and saved Greig his job, had his own part in month of negotiations not smacked of concealment.

Referring to the payment which the England players will receive for playing in a Test match this summer, against Australia (£210), Mr. Peter Lush, speaking after yesterday's meeting, said that it was realized how inadequate it was. When the players were struck by the news of the decision, they were lifted it will improve. As it is, the two sides this summer will be playing for prize money of approximately £20,000—less than Mr. Packer would put at stake, but a great deal more for what one has ever before had



From an Irish Racing  
Correspondent  
Dublin, May 13

Nebbio, The Minstrel, and the Borm-Mis, who filled three of the first places in the 2,000-mile Ginebra Newmarket, renewed rivalry in the required mile race the Curragh this afternoon. Nebbio will be trying to emulate the achievements of Right Tack and the Borm-Mis, who were to compete in the Ginebra mile.

Nebbio was an understated challenger at Newmarket, for he had had no previous experience in two-year-old racing, so the Ginebra crack Stakes at York and unacknowledged the Middle Park Stakes at Newmarket. He had been a consistent horse he was allowed to start at 20-1, and those padlocks had been well justified when he came because of the appearance he made to eat their words. He responded to the challenge to the driver's seat, and he was a very capable on his Middle Park comeback, by a length.

He was a little better in the third place than the Borm-Mis, The Minstrel; Borm-Mis, showing that he was not just a two-length back in first position. If there was any hard luck story in the Ginebra mile, it was that The Minstrel, who in field of 10, had the misfortune to be drawn on the wide outside.

made a mistake in deciding not to hold his position on The Ministerial side, but his way carried to the middle of the course. This must have cost him at least the two lengths by which he was beaten, and it would not surprise me if he were to emerge victorious this time. He is a horse of a different mould should suit his style of galloping ideally.

The event has attracted an international line-up, with two English runners—Digitale, backing up some 100 miles, and Hasty Reply, making the journey from France. A special interest will be attached to the effort of Hasty Reply, third to the Derby favorite, Bushings, second in the 1954 Grand Prix d'Essai de Fontainebleau, and a 1955 d'Essai de Fontainebleau winner.

His season, Pampapul won the National Stake and the second in the Royal Lodge Stake at Ascot. That line of form brings him very much into the reckoning this afternoon. Stuart Murless has engaged an Italian rider, Gianfranco Dettori, to ride Pampapul on the Irish Oaks winner. Pampapul, appeals as easily the most attractive way-bet *but* in the race.

Roman Charger was a winner over six furlongs at Phoenix Park on his last outing of the season, but may find the mile just beyond him, and Zinov may contrastingly find the trip too short. To sum up, an absorbing stake, and, if the weather is given the edge over Nebbulo.

3.50	IRISH	2,000	GUINEAS (3-y)
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0-10	2nd	100	Bahad Road, V. McGrath
0-10	3rd	100	W. G. O'Connell
0-10	4th	100	C. McRaffan
0-10	5th	100	First Up, S. McGrath
0-10	6th	100	W. G. O'Connell
0-10	7th	100	W. G. O'Connell
0-10	8th	100	W. G. O'Connell
0-10	9th	100	W. G. O'Connell
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0-10	17th	100	W. G. O'Connell
0-10	18th	100	W. G. O'Connell
0-10	19th	100	W. G. O'Connell
0-10	20th	100	W. G. O'Connell
0-10	21st	100	W. G. O'Connell
0-10	22nd	100	W. G. O'Connell
0-10	23rd	100	W. G. O'Connell
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0-10	37th	100	W. G. O'Connell
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0-10	41st	100	W. G. O'Connell
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0-10	49th	100	W. G. O'Connell
0-10	50th	100	W. G. O'Connell
0-10	51st	100	W. G. O'Connell
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**By Michael Phillips**  
**Racing Correspondent**

Having won the Duke of York Stakes with Boldboy at York on Thursday, Lady Beaverbrook, the wife of the racing magnate, William Carson, made a good chance of rounding off the week on a triumphant note by winning the £100,000 Ascot Gold Cup with Stalko at Newbury today with Redkino.

There was a lot to like about the way Redkino ran in his first race this season at Sandown Park. Although beaten by Lucky Strike, the 11-year-old gelding, who was a Westbury Stakes, Redkino still ran well enough to suggest that he might be a contender for the Cup, even if he is not quite as fast as he reverted to racing over a shorter distance. Today he has an opportunity to prove that point.

Redkino was the only horse who won last year when he was the Ascot 2,000 Guineas Trial over seven furlongs. He was also the favorite at Epsom when he finished second in the Derby, but again it was the distance that found him out. He was not quite as fast as he was hard to catch this afternoon. My one reservation as far as Redkino is concerned is that he has not indicated the consistency of one of

His rival, this afternoon, Free State, who developed into one of the best milers in the country. But Reikind may now be at a disadvantage, for he has never had a race already this season, whereas Free State has not. That could easily tilt the scales in his favor.

When Free State won the Watford Crystal Mile at Goodwood last year both Radetky and Poacowski were close.

Radetky will meet Free State on Sib better terms, but that should not be enough to bridge the gap.

Will he run this season either. Reikind has beaten Lok twice already and should do so again, but he will stand to be on his feet.

Thieving Demon and Jellaby, who are all capable of running well. It is even possible to make out a case for the latter.

Free State may be the best Reikind by taking a line through Lukky Wednesday. But I still prefer Reikind on this occasion.

Thieving Demon finished only seventh in the Newbury Spring Cup, but he had a huge weight and his form throughout most of the season was good.

Today's field will relish the soft

ground more than Jellybag, who ran so well under a water weight in a handicap at Kempton Park on Tuesday. He was a good horse, but not quite measure up to that of either Reikindo or Free Sane.

If Reikindo does manage to win, his younger half brother, Royal, will be the nearest thing to a family double by winning the Kenneth Robertson Handicap on an hour later with 9st 5lb on his back. He was the nearest to the first race of the season at Salisbury well enough, but I still doubt whether he will manage to give as good a race as the one he won at Sandown, who ought to stay a mile and a half without flinching, looking at his pedigree. It was at Newbury the other day that he was beaten by the last July, he looked a good horse in the making that day.

The London G.O. Cup was won by Royal Match, one of the most improved horses in training, 12 months ago; today another vastly improved horse, Air Trooper, will be trying to follow suit.

STATE OF COMMO (cont'd): Newbury: 1st, Newmarket; 2nd, Newmarket; 3rd, Newmarket; 4th, Newmarket; 5th, Newmarket; 6th, Newmarket; 7th, Newmarket; 8th, Newmarket; 9th, Newmarket; 10th, Newmarket; 11th, Newmarket; 12th, Newmarket; 13th, Newmarket; 14th, Newmarket; 15th, Newmarket; 16th, Newmarket; 17th, Newmarket; 18th, Newmarket; 19th, Newmarket; 20th, Newmarket; 21st, Newmarket; 22nd, Newmarket; 23rd, Newmarket; 24th, Newmarket; 25th, Newmarket; 26th, Newmarket; 27th, Newmarket; 28th, Newmarket; 29th, Newmarket; 30th, Newmarket; 31st, Newmarket; 32nd, Newmarket; 33rd, Newmarket; 34th, Newmarket; 35th, Newmarket; 36th, Newmarket; 37th, Newmarket; 38th, Newmarket; 39th, Newmarket; 40th, Newmarket; 41st, Newmarket; 42nd, Newmarket; 43rd, Newmarket; 44th, Newmarket; 45th, Newmarket; 46th, Newmarket; 47th, Newmarket; 48th, Newmarket; 49th, Newmarket; 50th, Newmarket; 51st, Newmarket; 52nd, Newmarket; 53rd, Newmarket; 54th, Newmarket; 55th, Newmarket; 56th, Newmarket; 57th, Newmarket; 58th, Newmarket; 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# old adversary

Orange Bay, the 1975 Italian Derby winner, and Laomedone, successful in their St Leger in the same year, and in the 1975 Aston Park Stakes yesterday. Carrying the Grundy colours of Dr Carlo Viratodori, Orange Bay was close there to one in his favour.

The pair started joint-favourites, but, so easily was Laomedone the favourite, that he was the winner at the distance, that it seemed just a question of when he would get there. He did it for full speed, however, the expected acceleration failed to materialise, and, without Patrick Eddery having said a word, he was sent a slither to the good at the line.

Orange Bay ran badly in the main at Baden-Baden on his first appearance last season, and Peter Walwyn admitted he had been afraid of the soft ground yards he would find. He was not to be pleased and said: "Orange Bay has not come in his coat yet. He will now be aimed at the Epsom Stakes, which he won last year."

That means a fifth meeting with Locomotive, whose owner, Henry Coker, has been despondent over this disaster. He said: "Our horse blew up again. After all, it's a miracle that he's on a race-track. I'm not expecting any further trouble on the pellops 12 months ago, and it took half an hour to get him onto a horsebox."

Betty Ross (second), Lady Of The Moon (fourth), and Quater Harbour were so soundly thrashed by High Fiddle that they are not expected to win. That their Epsom prospects could hardly be more remote. High Fiddle sailed past the favourite, Henry Coker, in three furlongs left, to score by four lengths.

Henry Candy, the trainer, said: "I took her out of the Oaks at the first acceptance. I don't think she'll ever be of any good. The filly goes for the Ribblesdale Stakes and then some of the other top class fillies' races. Peter Wilmshurst, who has been in the Walsley would not run in the Oaks."

Any mares now for Charlie? He is not to be outbided. Although his ability to handle yielding going is untested, Charlie has won four of five races in his last four victories in succession last autumn. Edward Hyde rides Scott, the yearling for Elvira Schmitt. The four-year-old is fit after a bout of early season coughing.

As a three-year-old against older horses, Red Seal is not a different creature. He is a very sharp, but too, are not suitable for this type of horse. But in the capable hands of Dennis Ray, Red Seal should respond to forcing tactics.

**Irish 1,000 surprise**

In a surprise turn-up to the Irish 1,000, the favourite, Caragh last night, Lady Capulet, who had never previously seen a racecourse, came home the winner by the length from Lady Caragh. With the challenge, Lady Caragh was head, away, third and the disappointing favourite. Celebration a long way from Lady Caragh. The race was won by Robert Sanger and trained by Vincent O'Brien.

[illegible][illegible]

## Newbury programme

[Television (BBC 1): 2.0, 2.30 and 3.0 races]									
2.0 FENLEE STAKES (2-y-o c & g; £1,143: 5f)									
6	22	33	44	55	66	77	88	99	10
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110
111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120
121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130
131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140
141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150
151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160
161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170
171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180
181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190
191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200
201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210
211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220
221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230
231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239	240
241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250
251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259	260
261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	270
271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280
281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	290
291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300
301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	310
311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320
321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329	330
331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340
341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350
351	352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359	360
361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368	369	370
371	372	373	374	375	376	377	378	379	380
381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389	390
391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399	400
401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408	409	410
411	412	413	414	415	416	417	418	419	420
421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429	430
431	432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440
441	442	443	444	445	446	447	448	449	

## Hamilton Park programme

[illegible]

## National Hunt programmes at two centres

[illegible]

## Autres

[illegible]

## Thirsk programme

[illegible]

7	20330-0	Stirling Castle (D), G. Harwood, 5-8-8
8	11110-2	Charta Pearl (C-D), J. Etherington, 5-2-5
10	00-1102	Kithabon (C-D), J. W. Watts, 6-7-7
12	000-14	La Solan (C), W. Watts, 7-2-5

10-8 L. H. Seale, 7-3 Kiblington, 6-2 Cherry Point, 6-1 Scott Joply, 7-3 AM  
Moore, 10-1 Spring Castle, 12-1 Aviator.

**3.30 HOLLEY STAKES (Handicap) \$736: 6f)**

1	122-000	Indians, H. C. Wards, 5-2	W. H. Smith	8
2	122-000	Indians, H. C. Wards, 5-2	S. J. Baker	7
3	122-000	Indians, H. C. Wards, 5-2	W. H. Smith	7
4	122-000	Indians, H. C. Wards, 5-2	S. J. Baker	7
5	122-000	Indians, H. C. Wards, 5-2	W. H. Smith	7
6	122-000	Indians, H. C. Wards, 5-2	S. J. Baker	7
7	122-000	Indians, H. C. Wards, 5-2	W. H. Smith	7
8	122-000	Indians, H. C. Wards, 5-2	S. J. Baker	7
9	122-000	Indians, H. C. Wards, 5-2	W. H. Smith	7
10	122-000	Indians, H. C. Wards, 5-2	S. J. Baker	7
11	122-000	Indians, H. C. Wards, 5-2	W. H. Smith	7
12	122-000	Indians, H. C. Wards, 5-2	S. J. Baker	7
13	122-000	Indians, H. C. Wards, 5-2	W. H. Smith	7
14	122-000	Indians, H. C. Wards, 5-2	S. J. Baker	7
15	122-000	Indians, H. C. Wards, 5-2	W. H. Smith	7
16	122-000	Indians, H. C. Wards, 5-2	S. J. Baker	7
17	122-000	Indians, H. C. Wards, 5-2	W. H. Smith	7
18	122-000	Indians, H. C. Wards, 5-2	S. J. Baker	7
19	122-000	Indians, H. C. Wards, 5-2	W. H. Smith	7
20	122-000	Indians, H. C. Wards, 5-2	S. J. Baker	7

1-11 Master Cutter, 10-1 Avon, 10-1 Wampan, 11-2 Wampan and Chase, 10-1 others.

**4.0 MAY STAKES (3-y-o: 5621: 11m)**

1	000-0-0	Master Cutter, 10-1 Avon, 10-1 Wampan, 11-2 Wampan and Chase, 10-1 others.	D. Nichols	21
2	000-0-0	Master Cutter, 10-1 Avon, 10-1 Wampan, 11-2 Wampan and Chase, 10-1 others.	H. Hyde	21
3	000-0-0	Master Cutter, 10-1 Avon, 10-1 Wampan, 11-2 Wampan and Chase, 10-1 others.	C. O'Leary	21
4	000-0-0	Master Cutter, 10-1 Avon, 10-1 Wampan, 11-2 Wampan and Chase, 10-1 others.	H. Hyde	21
5	000-0-0	Master Cutter, 10-1 Avon, 10-1 Wampan, 11-2 Wampan and Chase, 10-1 others.	C. O'Leary	21
6	000-0-0	Master Cutter, 10-1 Avon, 10-1 Wampan, 11-2 Wampan and Chase, 10-1 others.	H. Hyde	21
7	000-0-0	Master Cutter, 10-1 Avon, 10-1 Wampan, 11-2 Wampan and Chase, 10-1 others.	C. O'Leary	21
8	000-0-0	Master Cutter, 10-1 Avon, 10-1 Wampan, 11-2 Wampan and Chase, 10-1 others.	H. Hyde	21
9	000-0-0	Master Cutter, 10-1 Avon, 10-1 Wampan, 11-2 Wampan and Chase, 10-1 others.	C. O'Leary	21
10	000-0-0	Master Cutter, 10-1 Avon, 10-1 Wampan, 11-2 Wampan and Chase, 10-1 others.	H. Hyde	21
11	000-0-0	Master Cutter, 10-1 Avon, 10-1 Wampan, 11-2 Wampan and Chase, 10-1 others.	C. O'Leary	21
12	000-0-0	Master Cutter, 10-1 Avon, 10-1 Wampan, 11-2 Wampan and Chase, 10-1 others.	H. Hyde	21
13	000-0-0	Master Cutter, 10-1 Avon, 10-1 Wampan, 11-2 Wampan and Chase, 10-1 others.	C. O'Leary	21
14	000-0-0	Master Cutter, 10-1 Avon, 10-1 Wampan, 11-2 Wampan and Chase, 10-1 others.	H. Hyde	21
15	000-0-0	Master Cutter, 10-1 Avon, 10-1 Wampan, 11-2 Wampan and Chase, 10-1 others.	C. O'Leary	21
16	000-0-0	Master Cutter, 10-1 Avon, 10-1 Wampan, 11-2 Wampan and Chase, 10-1 others.	H. Hyde	21
17	000-0-0	Master Cutter, 10-1 Avon, 10-1 Wampan, 11-2 Wampan and Chase, 10-1 others.	C. O'Leary	21
18	000-0-0	Master Cutter, 10-1 Avon, 10-1 Wampan, 11-2 Wampan and Chase, 10-1 others.	H. Hyde	21
19	000-0-0	Master Cutter, 10-1 Avon, 10-1 Wampan, 11-2 Wampan and Chase, 10-1 others.	C. O'Leary	21
20	000-0-0	Master Cutter, 10-1 Avon, 10-1 Wampan, 11-2 Wampan and Chase, 10-1 others.	H. Hyde	21

Heberbrethren, 10-1 Tudor King, 11-2 Eagle Lam, 11-2 others.

**4.30 MILLGATE STAKES (3-y-o: 5887: 2m)**

1	00-11	Heberbrethren, 10-1 Tudor King, 11-2 Eagle Lam, 11-2 others.	A. Kimbrey	10
2	00-11	Heberbrethren, 10-1 Tudor King, 11-2 Eagle Lam, 11-2 others.	S. Johnson	10
3	00-11	Heberbrethren, 10-1 Tudor King, 11-2 Eagle Lam, 11-2 others.	S. Johnson	10
4	00-11	Heberbrethren, 10-1 Tudor King, 11-2 Eagle Lam, 11-2 others.	S. Johnson	10
5	00-11	Heberbrethren, 10-1 Tudor King, 11-2 Eagle Lam, 11-2 others.	S. Johnson	10
6	00-11	Heberbrethren, 10-1 Tudor King, 11-2 Eagle Lam, 11-2 others.	S. Johnson	10
7	00-11	Heberbrethren, 10-1 Tudor King, 11-2 Eagle Lam, 11-2 others.	S. Johnson	10
8	00-11	Heberbrethren, 10-1 Tudor King, 11-2 Eagle Lam, 11-2 others.	S. Johnson	10
9	00-11	Heberbrethren, 10-1 Tudor King, 11-2 Eagle Lam, 11-2 others.	S. Johnson	10
10	00-11	Heberbrethren, 10-1 Tudor King, 11-2 Eagle Lam, 11-2 others.	S. Johnson	10
11	00-11	Heberbrethren, 10-1 Tudor King, 11-2 Eagle Lam, 11-2 others.	S. Johnson	10
12	00-11	Heberbrethren, 10-1 Tudor King, 11-2 Eagle Lam, 11-2 others.	S. Johnson	10
13	00-11	Heberbrethren, 10-1 Tudor King, 11-2 Eagle Lam, 11-2 others.	S. Johnson	10
14	00-11	Heberbrethren, 10-1 Tudor King, 11-2 Eagle Lam, 11-2 others.	S. Johnson	10
15	00-11	Heberbrethren, 10-1 Tudor King, 11-2 Eagle Lam, 11-2 others.	S. Johnson	10
16	00-11	Heberbrethren, 10-1 Tudor King, 11-2 Eagle Lam, 11-2 others.	S. Johnson	10
17	00-11			

10-12-1

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**Orange Bay strides home in the Aston Park Stakes.**

# Orange Bay beats his old adversary again

Orange Bay, the 1975 Italian Derby winner and Lomondoneo, successful in their 8<sup>th</sup> League in the same year, met again in Newbury's Aston Park. Orange Bay, owned by Dr Carlo Vittadini, Orange Bay made the score three to one, in his 10<sup>th</sup> year.

The pair started joint-favourites, but, so easily was Lomondoneo the favourite, that he was the only winner at the distance, that it seemed less a question of when Lomondoneo would win, than of how far he would go.

He was a good runner, but he was slow to get away, and he was slow to get back. When he did ask for full speed, however, the expected acceleration failed to materialise, and he was not able to keep on well to work hard. Orange Bay was still a length to the good at the line.

Orange Bay ran badly in the mud at Baden-Baden on his final appearance last year, but he was always frustrated he had been afraid of the soft ground yesterday. So he had every reason to be pleased to be back on the grass. He has not come in his coat yet. He will now be aimed at the Harbourside Stakes, which he won last year."

That means a 12th meeting with Lester, who was beaten by Henry Cecil, was far from dependent over this defeat. He said: "Our horse is a terrible one, but on a race course, for he breaks down with tender trouble in the pelvis and hocks, and it took me an hour to get him onto a horsebox. It has taken time to get him right and he will now go for the Hardwicke."

The three Oaks entries, Betty Ross (second), Lady Of The Moon (fourth) and Queen Elizabeth (fifth), were all in the High Final in the Sandford Priority Stakes, that their Epsom prospects could hardly be more remote. High on the list of favorites was the 10/11 favorite, Betty Ross, with three favorites left to score by four lengths.

But the Oaks was a different matter. "I took her out of the Oaks at the last acceptance stage, as I don't think she has the goods," said the 10/11 favorite, the Ribblesdale Stakes and then some of the other top class fillies' races." Peter O'Brien said: "I don't think the Moon would not run in the Oaks."

# Le Soleil could find favour again

By Michael Seely.

Le Solet, an expensive failure after starting the Sydney-based *Le Solet* at Sandown Park, can help to recover some of its supporters' losses by winning the Thrift-Army Cup this afternoon (3.5). In his very first race, Le Solet has landed something of a gamble for his finden connections. Supported from 16-1, he is in the form of a hotly printed horse six lengths clear of Danish King, who has since done that form, the form which has been struggling to hold his position. His young rider managed to launch a challenge early in the race, but he was unable to get any ground. The pair finished fourth, beaten just under three lengths by Bone-Me. Later, the pair were sent to the paddock to race the *Le Solet* in the 2,000 Guineas.

## Crystal Palace should score at Longchamp

From Desmond Stoneham  
French Racing Correspondent  
Paris, May 13

second to Blinding Groom in the Poule d'Essai des Poulains. He was beaten three lengths that day and will be well served by the 104 furlongs of Sunday's race. Blinding Groom is a half brother to Blinding Groom and Water Boy in the Prix de Fomblain, and as a two-year-old won the Prix de la Forêt from Lady Mere and Manado. He is a half brother to the second Wildemont's racing empire, and seems to improve with every race. The half brother to last year's St Leger winner, Grow, has been victorious against his half brother, old career and recently beat another Lupin participant, Amynon, by a neck in the group two Prix Noailles.

Also owned by Alec Head, cost 26,000 guineas as a yearling at Goffs's Sale in 1975. He has already victoriously recovered his cost by winning the £12,000 Prix Darm from Balsemo Casaque and El Crisollo, all of whom he will meet again on Sunday.

Neither of the Oaks candidates, Damsene, Etolie or Arya, will be in the line-up for today's race. Damsene, who will race in the Prix de Bagatelle at Longchamps on Sunday, thus leaving the Claspette to the boys, has been scratched from the race at the expense of Claspette the Guide Princess.

Angie Puma, the trainer, spoke for the Damsene runners, the Damsene Etolie had injured her chest. Puma told me that the filly returned from the last long race at Ascot on Saturday two days ago, but that she was much better and was still an intended runner at Epsom on June 4.

There has been no runner yet twice, winning the Prix Chailot at Longchamps and thus finishing second to Mrs. Arvis in the 1,000 Guineas. Newsday has a small graphic comparison of Madeline.

## St-Cloud runners today

Prix Cleopatre (Group III: 3-yr fillies: £11,737: Jan 24th)			
1311-2nd	Sold Lady, L. Chambliss, N	5-20	M. Phillips
1312-3rd	Princess, G. P. Ryan, N	5-20	W. H. Jones
1313-4th	Princess, G. P. Ryan, N	5-20	W. H. Jones
1314-5th	Princess, G. P. Ryan, N	5-20	W. H. Jones
1315-6th	Princess, G. P. Ryan, N	5-20	W. H. Jones
1316-7th	Princess, G. P. Ryan, N	5-20	W. H. Jones
1317-8th	Princess, G. P. Ryan, N	5-20	W. H. Jones
1318-9th	Princess, G. P. Ryan, N	5-20	W. H. Jones
1319-10th	Princess, G. P. Ryan, N	5-20	W. H. Jones
1320-11th	Princess, G. P. Ryan, N	5-20	W. H. Jones
1321-12th	Princess, G. P. Ryan, N	5-20	W. H. Jones
1322-13th	Princess, G. P. Ryan, N	5-20	W. H. Jones
1323-14th	Princess, G. P. Ryan, N	5-20	W. H. Jones
1324-15th	Princess, G. P. Ryan, N	5-20	W. H. Jones
1325-16th	Princess, G. P. Ryan, N	5-20	W. H. Jones
1326-17th	Princess, G. P. Ryan, N	5-20	W. H. Jones
1327-18th	Princess, G. P. Ryan, N	5-20	W. H. Jones
1328-19th	Princess, G. P. Ryan, N	5-20	W. H. Jones
1329-20th	Princess, G. P. Ryan, N	5-20	W. H. Jones
1330-21st	Princess, G. P. Ryan, N	5-20	W. H. Jones
1331-22nd	Princess, G. P. Ryan, N	5-20	W. H. Jones
1332-23rd	Princess, G. P. Ryan, N	5-20	W. H. Jones
1333-24th	Princess, G. P. Ryan, N	5-20	W. H. Jones
1334-25th	Princess, G. P. Ryan, N	5-20	W. H. Jones
1335-26th	Princess, G. P. Ryan, N	5-20	W. H. Jones
1336-27th	Princess, G. P. Ryan, N	5-20	W. H. Jones
1337-28th	Princess, G. P. Ryan, N	5-20	W. H. Jones
1338-29th	Princess, G. P. Ryan, N	5-20	W. H. Jones
1339-30th	Princess, G. P. Ryan, N	5-20	W. H. Jones
1340-31st	Princess, G. P. Ryan, N	5-20	W. H. Jones
1341-32nd	Princess, G. P. Ryan, N	5-20	W. H. Jones
1342-33rd	Princess, G. P. Ryan, N	5-20	W. H. Jones
1343-34th	Princess, G. P. Ryan, N	5-20	W. H. Jones
1344-35th	Princess, G. P. Ryan, N	5-20	W. H. Jones
1345-36th	Princess, G. P. Ryan, N	5-20	W. H. Jones
1346-37th	Princess, G. P. Ryan, N	5-20	W. H. Jones
1347-38th	Princess, G. P. Ryan, N	5-20	W. H. Jones
1348-39th	Princess, G. P. Ryan, N	5-20	W. H. Jones
1349-40th	Princess, G. P. Ryan, N	5-20	W. H. Jones
1350-41st	Princess, G. P. Ryan, N	5-20	W. H. Jones
1351-42nd	Princess, G. P. Ryan, N	5-20	W. H. Jones
1352-43rd	Princess, G. P. Ryan, N	5-20	W. H. Jones
1353-44th	Princess, G. P. Ryan, N	5-20	W. H. Jones
1354-45th	Princess, G. P. Ryan, N	5-20	W. H. Jones
1355-46th	Princess, G. P. Ryan, N	5-20	W. H. Jones
1356-47th	Princess, G. P. Ryan, N	5-20	W. H. Jones
1357-48th	Princess, G. P. Ryan, N	5-20	W. H. Jones
1358-49th	Princess, G. P. Ryan, N	5-20	W. H. Jones
1359-50th	Princess, G. P. Ryan, N	5-20	W. H. Jones
1360-51st	Princess, G. P. Ryan, N	5-20	W. H. Jones
1361-52nd	Princess, G. P. Ryan, N	5-20	W. H. Jones
1362-53rd	Princess, G. P. Ryan, N	5-20	W. H. Jones
1363-54th	Princess, G. P. Ryan, N	5-20	W. H. Jones
1364-55th	Princess, G. P. Ryan, N	5-20	W. H. Jones
1365-56th	Princess, G. P. Ryan, N	5-20	W. H. Jones
1366-57th	Princess, G. P. Ryan, N	5-20	W. H. Jones
1367-58th	Princess, G. P. Ryan, N	5-20	W. H. Jones
1368-59th	Princess, G. P. Ryan, N	5-20	W. H. Jones
1369-60th	Princess, G. P. Ryan, N	5-20	W. H. Jones
1370-61st	Princess, G. P. Ryan, N	5-20	W. H. Jones
1371-62nd	Princess, G. P. Ryan, N	5-20	W. H. Jones
1372-63rd	Princess, G. P. Ryan, N	5-20	W. H. Jones
1373-64th	Princess, G. P. Ryan, N	5-20	W. H. Jones
1374-65th	Princess, G. P. Ryan, N	5-20	W. H. Jones
1375-66th	Princess, G. P. Ryan, N	5-20	W. H. Jones
1376-67th	Princess, G. P. Ryan, N	5-20	W. H. Jones
1377-68th	Princess, G. P. Ryan, N	5-20	W. H. Jones
1378-69th	Princess, G. P. Ryan, N	5-20	W. H. Jones
1379-70th	Princess, G. P. Ryan, N	5-20	W. H. Jones
1380-71st	Princess, G. P. Ryan, N	5-20	

## Longchamp tomorrow

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# Saturday Review

An extract  
from the first  
novel  
by Antonia Fraser

At Blessed Eleanor's Convent in Sussex,  
one of the younger nuns, Sister Miriam,  
has apparently starved herself to death in a  
ruined tower on the edge of the grounds.  
Under the guise of making a programme about  
women in religious orders, Jemima Shore, a  
highly successful television reporter, is staying  
at the convent in order to investigate this and  
other disquieting happenings. Jemima Shore is  
not a Catholic herself but did attend the school  
as a daygirl in wartime, when she formed a  
close friendship with Sister Miriam, then  
Rosabelle Powerstock and heiress to one of the  
largest fortunes in Britain. She has come back  
to Blessed Eleanor's now, after a gap of many  
years, in response to an urgent and  
surprising plea from her former headmistress,  
Reverend Mother Ancilla:  
"Jemima, something is going on here..."

## Night of the Black Nun

It was Dodo, at supper on the Feast of All Souls, who inquired: "I wonder if anyone saw the black nun last night?" Her tone was rather bright. Dodo was such a pretty plump little thing with fair curls and a cupid's bow mouth, that nothing she said sounded completely serious. But I noted a wry expression on Margaret's face, a slight compression of the lips.

"Aren't all nuns black?" I responded lightly. The death of Sister Edward had not cast a notable shadow on their spirits: she was too young to have taught them. But I wanted to get the conversation away from the events of the night before.

"I'm talking about The Black Nun," Dodo gave the three last words sepulchral emphasis. "An apparition. Did you never see it when you were at the school?"

"No—wait, I do remember something vaguely. Doesn't it haunt the chapel? Or is it the tower?" Margaret said. "And the convent itself. Sister Miriam told us she actually saw the Black Nun when she was girl at school."

"She didn't tell me. It must have only bobbed up after dark. I was a day girl. You tell me."

"Dodo, you tell." Dodo was nothing loath. It transpired that the Black Nun was commonly held to appear shortly before or shortly after the death of a member of the community. Yes, of course, all nuns wore black, but the point of the Black Nun was that you suddenly came across a nun you didn't recognize, a nun you had never seen before. You imagined a novice, a transfer from another convent. But the next day you heard of

the death of a nun. And of course you never saw the Black Nun, that particular Black Nun again.

"I burst out laughing. 'You don't believe us' said one of the other girls at the table, rather grumpily. 'But some of us saw the Black Nun three nights after Sister Miriam ran away. And then turned out to be the night she must have died.' Much chattering followed. Yes, a strange nun, a nun they had never seen before, a nun with a strange face, passing them at night, in the corridor, on their way to... their way to where? Why, the chapel. To make a novena to Our Lady. And that night, they learned later, Sister Miriam had given up the ghost in the tower. Surely I had to admit it all added up."

On the contrary, it all sounded deeply implausible to me. Another enigmatic novena in the middle of the night: something I was fairly sure was not allowed by the rules. When I was informed that the Black Nun had first appeared to Blessed Eleanor herself, goodness knows how many years ago, I scoffed openly. Six black nuns were supposed to have carried her to her tower, and at the last moment a seventh unknown nun appeared. Blessed Eleanor asked the stranger who she was, and the answer came back pat: "I am Death itself, who comes before you as a Black Nun."

"None of that delightful story appears in the Treasury of the Blessed Eleanor." I commented in a fairly acid voice. "Exactly. Sister Miriam told us about it. She used to tell us ghost stories after lights out. I was glad to hear that in one respect at least my old friend had not changed. Ghost stories and ghoulish information generally had been Rosa's speciality."

"Anyway, somebody did see the Black Nun last night," said the grumpy girl suddenly. Blanche, Blanche Nelligan, was

her name. She did not look like a Blanche, being beetle-browed with rather a bad complexion. "Tessa Justin, that girl with plaits in the Lower IVth. I was on prefect duty in the big dormitory and Sister Agnes was doing the rounds. Suddenly young Tessa appeared, shrieking her head off, plaits flying; saying a strange nun had interrupted her in the loo. That must have been the Black Nun."

At this we all laughed. A minute later the chairs were scraping back for grace and supper was over. I decided not to give another thought to the Black Nun. I enjoyed my solitary tray of coffee after the girls' chatter. Then I climbed up the visitors' staircase to my own retreat. I really felt that I had quite enough problems on my hands without the question of a spectral religious haunting the junior school bathrooms. The Black Nun was scarcely likely to bother me.

Once I was installed in my room and had looked at the papers on my desk, I saw that I was wrong. "If you don't believe in the Black Nun"—so ran a typed message on a sheet of plain paper placed on top of my copy of *The Times*—"why don't you come to the tower one night and see for yourself? Tomorrow night for example."

There was no superscription and no signature. Jutting out from the paper, on the front cover of *The Times* I saw a photograph of a girl in the uniform of the WNG. That looked like Emily Crispin at his elbow with some papers on her lap. Neither of them looked particularly ghostly. The photograph gave me no consolation whatsoever.

**The Next Day**  
Sister Liz and I paraded round the hockey fields. I watched an extremely energetic black figure hurtling towards the goal with a hockey stick wielded to deadly effect: Sister Immaculata. Surely she could not still be playing hockey after all these years. I remembered what a shock it gave me to find that nuns, at the sight of a hockey field, merely looped up their black skirts, and tackled the game with their usual black efficiency, veils and all. The maroon coloured figures of the girls were considerably more lachrymose in their attitude to the game.

The only other participant showing any energy at all was wearing a short black skirt, black stockings, a black jersey with a white collar and a short black veil which revealed most of her hair—luxuriant hair. A postulant. I had to look up the word in the dictionary while I was at school. Postulant: Candidate, especially for admission into religious order. Tom I suppose was a parliamentary postulant at the general election. At least I was firmly on the side of his election. I wasn't sure what I felt about this girl's candidature. From the convent's point of view, however, it was a good thing that there were still some new vocations around: now that the Order of the Tower of Ivory was not after all to be dispossessed by the Projectors.

"She's Irish," said Sister Elizabeth, following the direction of my gaze. "Of course." Sister Elizabeth was a woman for whom I had a genuine affection, nun or no nun. Her generosity of spirit, her mad enthusiasm for literature in all its forms, endeared her to me. There was a Margaret Rutherford touch about her. With her flaming arms, springy walk (signally untouched by the passage of twenty-five years), and her earnestness, she really was not unlike my idea of Margaret Rutherford, supposing she had ever played the part of a nun.

Sister Liz was the only woman in the world capable of exclaiming: "I thanked Our Blessed Lord on my knees this morning for making Wordsworth write the *Prelude* at such length."

Of course as a schoolgirl I was attracted to her, just because her values did not seem totally permeated by those of the Catholic religion. We had corresponded in a desultory way after I left. "I shall pray for you," Sister Liz dutifully ended her letters. But I knew she prayed for sensible things like a proper understanding of *Paradise Lost* or a real appreciation of *The Waste Land*, not lost causes like my conversion.

Now we chatted easily on literary matters. The Christianity of King Lear was one topic: Sister Liz's determination to discuss James Joyce came as more of a surprise to me. Then I realized that she must have felt not content here. The Christianity of Joyce's work. Of the two of us, it was I, not Sister Elizabeth, who shrank from discussing fully some aspects of Joyce's nature. I was uncertain where I should draw the line in order not to shock her. Sister Liz on the other hand had a kind of sublime frankness about her remarks which left nothing to the imagination. It sprang. I realized from innocence: my own reticence was rooted in guilt.

Only the fact that our returning steps had led us to the entrance to the nuns' little cemetery made Sister Liz draw breath. We paused and, by unspoken agreement, entered through the low gate. It was an out of the way place. The girls did not come here. The decision was ensured by the high dark hedge surrounding the grass. Rows of plain stone crosses marked the last resting places of the community. The inscription on each was identical in form, and minimal. Sister John Brodsky O.T.I. 1900-1935. Below the name and dates: R.I.P. And that was all.

The last cross in the sequence was the one I feared, but it could not be avoided. Yes, here it was. Sister Miriam Powerstock O.T.I. 1932-1973 R.I.P.

At my side I noted that Sister Liz crossed herself. Then she held her rosary and her lips moved silently. I felt nothing, nothing at all. Then feelings did rush in, overwhelmingly, into the vacuum. I felt fiercely that there was no connexion, none at all between this plain stone cross and the young girl who had once been my friend. My compassion, such as it was, was reserved for the memory of Sister Edward who would soon

lie in the neighbouring earth. "I can't accept that this is anything to do with Rosa. I don't believe Rosa is here, you know." My aggressive voice rang out in the quiet graveyard.

"Mother Church would agree with you about that," replied Sister Elizabeth mildly. "She's not here. Only her poor tormented earthly body. Bless here. May God have mercy on her soul." And she crossed herself again.

Abruptly I asked Sister Liz if she would accompany me across the fields to the tower. I pulled the key out of my pocket. It was a bright new Yale key. The key to the padlock which now secured the tower, as Mother Ancilla had instructed me. Not the ancient rusty key which had broken off during Rosa's frantic struggles to escape her self-imposed fate. By now I needed to exercise that tower for myself and Sister Liz with her warmth and compassion, her understanding of people beyond the narrow prescription of the convent, was the right person to accompany me. The evening's possible adventure had quite vanished from my mind.

As we skirted the fields, trying to avoid the squelching mire left by the rain, a later afternoon sun emerged from the barred clouds, illuminating the November landscape. Sister Elizabeth began to recite Wordsworth in her special faraway poetic voice, which, like her walk, had not changed. Her eyes rolled in wonder as she spoke. It was as though she was receiving a direct message from the poet, line by line.

It is a beautiful evening, calm  
The holy time is quiet as a Nun,  
Breathless with adoration...

By this time we were in sight of the tower, a black square, shorter than I remembered—oh, the shudders brought about by time—the sun was beginning to sink behind it. I was reminded of a card in the tarot pack: the Tower of Destruction, depicted by a tower very similar in design, out of which spilled unhappy falling people in medieval dress. Yes, Tower of Destruction indeed and Rosa's destruction above all. It seemed quite inappropriate under the circumstances to contemplate a late night rendezvous with some prankish schoolgirls pretending to be ghosts. I would lay my own ghost and then depart.

Dear Child! dear Girl! that  
the wildest year me here!

If thou appear untouched by  
solemn thought.

Thy nature is not therefore less  
divine;

Thou hast in Abraham's  
bosom all the year of a

Sister Elizabeth's sonorous declaration was drawing to its close.

"Somehow those last lines rather remind me of you, Jemima," she said afterwards. There was a charming note of hope in her voice. I realized that this literary reference was the nearest Sister Liz would ever get to probing my religious beliefs. I ignored the implied question. Besides, I had an ardent desire to

laugh at the idea of television in the guise of Abraham's bosom—Megalithic House. In any case, I was not untouched by solemn thought, rather the contrary. The sight of the Tower of Destruction was more upsetting than I had anticipated.

After a silence Sister Elizabeth said simply: "I love that poem. I first learnt it as a girl. I am not sure it did not influence me towards the Church, and leave my vocation."

The idea of a nun, breathless in adoration. So calm. So free. I'm a convert you know. I was received into the church when I was twenty-one.

"Quiet as a nun," I repeated. To me they sounded ironic words. Where was the quiet in this seeming community of neurotic women, many of them frustrated in one way or the other, quite out of touch with all that was good in the modern world? Many of them would do better to return to the world and find their own peace, than reside in this false quiet. As Beatrice O'Dowd had done. Only someone like Sister Elizabeth with her unobtainable love of literature probably escaped a measure of frustration.

We unlocked the padlock—new, like the key—and entered the tower. The air was dank. Since the ground floor was windowless it was dark. By the light of the open door we climbed up the wooden ladder to the first floor. We went in single file. I let Sister Elizabeth lead the way. On the first floor there would be one window high up in the far wall, overlooking the farm lands beyond. You could neither see the convent from the tower nor be seen from it. A further window in the first floor, on the convent side, had been blocked up in the nineteenth century.

Although the tower was officially out of bounds, in my day at school it had been a fashionable dare to purloin the conspicuously large key from the portress. And pay an illicit visit to Nelly's Nest. I recalled some furniture, a wooden table, a large chair, a rocking chair. I thought, an empty fireplace. Even in summer the thick stone walls gave off an unpleasant atmosphere of damp and chill.

"The community came and tended to the tower. After it happened," Sister Liz observed over her shoulder as we climbed. She meant: you won't find anything distressing here, as in the graveyard. She said aloud: "And no-one has been here since."

I believed her. Once again my feelings had frozen. I gazed up at Sister Elizabeth's retreating black back, her near black feet with their goshes over black strap shoes, black stockings, black skirt looped up at the sides for walking the muddy fields. Sister Elizabeth paced slightly. The door banged to downstairs, removing our light. But at the same moment Sister Elizabeth reached the trap door and pushed it open. She peered her head through the trap door.

There was an audible gasp and Sister Elizabeth stopped

quite still on the last rung of the ladder. Then there was silence. She did not move.

"Sister Liz—" I said after a minute, anxiously. "It's all right, my child," she replied rather heavily. "Just that I had rather a shock."

"What is it?" I could see nothing from behind her. "Nothing really. It must be the children. A silly practical joke."

I was going frantic. Much more slowly, Sister Elizabeth lumbered up the last rung and vanished into the room. I clambered up after her at speed. When I entered the room, Sister Elizabeth was leaning one hand on the table and panning.

The only other piece of furniture in the room was a large wooden rocking chair. Just as I remembered, in fact. Draped in the chair and over it was a nun's black habit. Including a veil and rosary and all the other accoutrements you would need if you were to dress yourself up as a nun. Or to dress yourself if you were a nun.

At first glance there was certainly the impression of a black nun sitting there in the chair. A faceless nun. But the impression did not outlast the first second. We were looking at a set of empty and thus lifeless black clothes. Except—

"No shoes or stockings," I thought suddenly, remembering my glimpse of Sister Elizabeth's stockings and goshes. "The children. It must be the children. They have an innocent sense of humour. They don't realize how distressing these things can be." Sister Elizabeth muttered. She made no move to touch the clothes. I noticed. "I'll tell Mother Ancilla and someone will fetch the habit in the morning."

I thought: Yes. The children. The children—with their innocent sense of humour—had prepared some kind of reception for me tonight. A sort of religious scarecrow. And I, by my early visit, had sprung their trap.

I writhed my nose. In the damp air, another smell disturbed me. A smell which should not have been there. For a moment I could not quite place it, although it was one of the most familiar smells of my urban life. I gazed around and my eye fell on the empty fireplace. Not quite empty. At the back of the fireplace carelessly thrown down were a host of cigarette stubs. No attempt had been made to conceal them.

I wondered if the nun's habit which was to greet me tonight had after all intended to be smoky. Maybe I should have to pay a return visit to the Tower. It was an unlikely ghost who smoked Gauloises. And in such quantity. My spirits rose. Forewarned was, traditionally, forearmed. The Black Nun; habit and all, could expect a somewhat cynical reception from me. In the last hours of the evening.

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Quiet as a Nun, by Antonia Fraser, will be published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson on May 26, at £3.95.



Illustration by Franklin Wilson









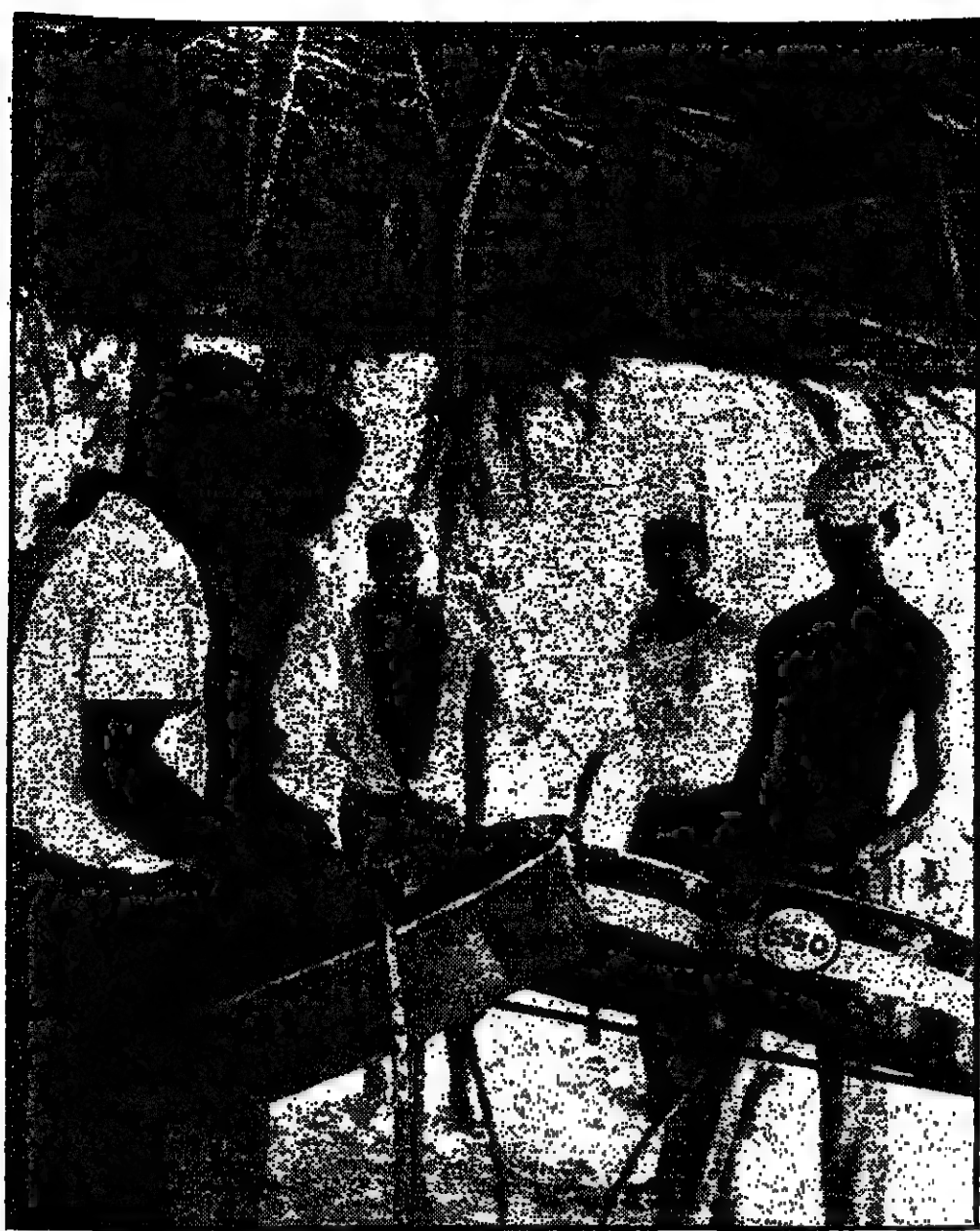






## Travel

## Sun, sea and steel bands



Through a faint sea mist we could see the shoulder of South America some seven miles distant. Trinidad, where we stood, was once part of this great continent whose wild life it reflects in miniature.

Before Columbus the native Amerindians called Trinidad "Jere"—the Land of the Humming Bird. The island has long been an ornithologist's delight. Even tourists, whose interest in bird-life is minimal, choose to visit the island for the bird-watching. The Port of Spain, at sunset, shows sand upon thousands of seagulls, their gliding homeward to their nests after daily foraging for tiny tree oysters.

On several evenings after dark we strolled around Port of Spain's huge Seventeenth Park amid a sea of music, mostly youths (very few girls), all intent on listening to the steel band competitions. As if to prove the universality of music, one or two bands even had the odd white player, which must have been something of a privilege because "pan" music, as the drums are called, originated in Trinidad, as did the calypso.

One problem for visitors to Trinidad is finding good but cheap accommodation. The cheaper hotels seemed distinctly run down. Although the welcome to foreigners is genuine, the Government has avoided too much dependence on tourism. A number of areas have been earmarked for tourist development, but only one has so far begun to take shape at Maracas beach, which is a popular weekend resort for Port of Spain near by. In fact the adjoining Las Cuevas has an even better beach, but is largely left to the fishermen and their

hanks of gleaming king fish, probably because of the tiny sand flies.

In our search for accommodation, the tourist office put us in touch with the guest house "Blanchisseuse" who were very helpful, gave us lists, and made a few phone calls on our behalf. They soon found us an excellent private guest house called "Monique" in Maraval. It was spotlessly clean and we were treated very well. The family, then, provided a small kitchen for the use of guests. Monique's husband, who had retired early, had a reputation for related, Trinidadian humour.

To tour the island, which is about the size of Lancashire, we hired a car. A young English couple, who were kind and helpful, drove us through the island, showing us the best of the island, and we were very impressed. On leaving, we pressed them in accents of regret, regretting that we had not had more time to see all he had.

Blanchisseuse may not be the end of the world, but it is certainly the end of the road. A local youth who appeared from nowhere confirmed this fact, so we drove with him back to the village. On the way I pulled his leg about the isolation of Blanchisseuse, but he had no doubt about the advantages of living there: "You don't need money because food is free. If I want fish, I can catch it myself."

This is how it was in the old days. The writer, E. M. Rosch, reminding over his childhood, recalls: "I used to feel free to enter any garden and ask for whatever was ripe on the trees or fallen on the ground."

Leaving the coast road at Blanchisseuse, we turned south towards Arima (Amerindian for "water"), stopping at the nearby Asa Wright Nature Centre, famous for its colony of nocturnal oilbirds or guacharos.

Through Sangre Grande to the rugged north-eastern coast, which we had been unable to reach from Blanchisseuse. The east coast of the island is kept pleasantly cool by the Trade Winds which blow steadily onshore, but since it is open to the Atlantic the sea can be rough on this side. That night the wind howled in, and the rain was heavy. On the next day all was calm. Strawn for miles along the broad sandy beach were thousands of small plastic balloons. On closer examination they proved to be Portuguese Men of War.

We soon found ourselves bumping and jouncing on an unsurfaced road across the southern part of the island. The flat, unimproved beaches at the western end where the resort hotels are, to the mountains, the beauty of the landscape, the Bird of Paradise is as choice a spot for bird watching as for a delicious, Chinese-style lunch (quite different from the conventional offerings) with Mr. and Mrs. Lau, who run it.

The Arnos Vale Hotel, one of the oldest in the island, is a naturalists' dream, not only for birds and flowers but also for snorkelling among the magnificent sea gardens which eddy among the rocks at the far end of the little beach. The nocturnal sounds which emanate from Arnos Vale tend more to the courtship note of a frog (which sound like a pinkish motorbike) than to the typical bird and insect sounds of such form of life. This is intentional: you pay for what you don't get—noise, glare and crowds and after dinner there is a family little apart from conversation with fellow guests to detain you from your bed. But Tobago's three other resort hotels—Mount Irvine, Turtle Beach and Radisson Crown Reef (all of them easily accessible with an Avis—self-drive)—compensate with various barbecues, buffets and steel band evenings, which

Compared with Trinidad, Tobago is a house in the trees. Only 25 minutes away by air, it is where the rich from Port of Spain commune to their weekend end, as well as to huge capes and citrus plantations. Otherwise Tobago is a Mecca not for oil prospectors, but rather for ornithologists, as well as the quieter and more leisurely tourist—for, in its somewhat one-eyed way, it is among the loveliest and least developed of all the Caribbean islands.

A ragged ellipse in shape, Tobago's landscape merges somewhere in the middle from coral to volcanic soil, from flat, unimproved beaches at the western end where the resort hotels are, to the mountains, the beauty of the landscape, the Bird of Paradise is as choice a spot for bird watching as for a delicious, Chinese-style lunch (quite different from the conventional offerings) with Mr. and Mrs. Lau, who run it.

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keep the social circulation going.

Mount Irvine is notable chiefly for a magnificent 18-hole golf course. It is the biggest and conventionally the most beautiful of the islands; there are several bars, two restaurants and a swimming pool plus a snack bar on the beach, down below the road and other sports facilities. Turtle Beach, on a strand well over a mile long, feels more native: towards sunset, an informal fish auction is conducted on the beach. Bed room cabins open directly out to lawns and sea, and the hotel put on a really splendid Saturday night buffet with one of the top Trinidad steel bands and a superb group of Haitian drummers.

Radisson Crown Reef is an American concern of high professional whose repertoire of food and wine none of the other hotels attempts to match. It stands at one end of Sore Bay, the best beach on the island. As the other end is a useful establishment, Crown Reef, an apartment condominium from which one can rent kitchenette rooms at around \$50 a day for two. It also has an excellent Chinese restaurant, which we frequented frequently in our swimsuits.

It is from Sore Bay that most of the glass bottom boats put out for Buccoo Reef and its coral gardens, a natural wonder which reveals itself from a distance as a pale jade streak in the cobalt waters. This is the island's "pay" beach—but it is equipped with beautifully maintained thatched shelters, showers and picnic benches. Families come down for the day, rather in the French manner with ice box, milk canisters, curries or a calisson, soup (another native treat, made from fresh land crab and daisies—terres)—and altogether, every combination and permutation of a domestic comfort.

Doone Beal

## The Times Special Offer Shear delight for gardeners

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If you find stooping or crouching tiring or uncomfortable, you will appreciate this flat lawn shear, and it could be a most welcome present for any elderly or handicapped person who prefers to do the gardening from a standing position.

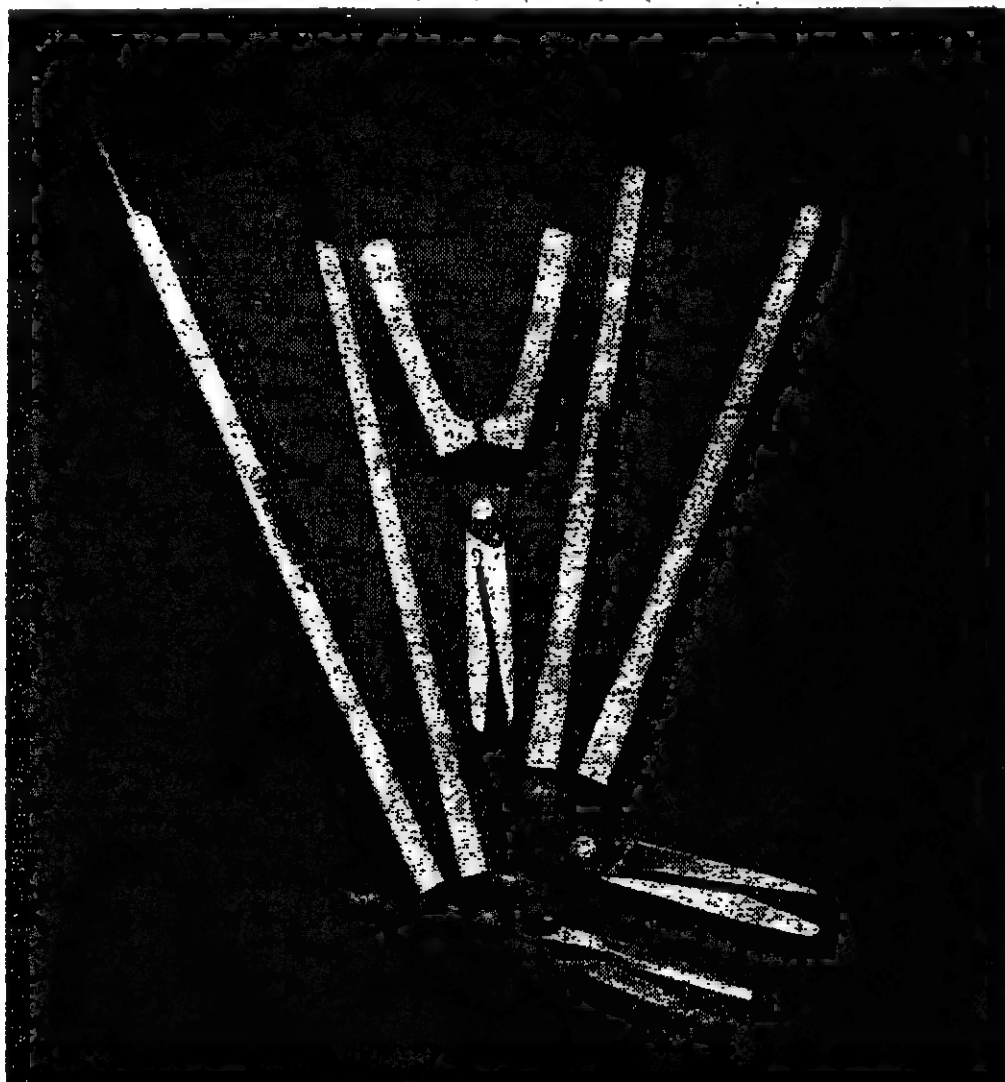
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## Gardening Never say die, at least not yet

Soon now we will be able to make a realistic assessment of the losses caused by last year's drought. I would wait until mid June before giving up hope for a plant that looks dead. Many azaleas took a great beating, but many I know are breaking into growth from ground level. Many older heather plants looked dead at the end of the summer, still look dead, and probably are, because heathers do not usually break into new growth from old stems or from below ground.

Hardy fuchsias took a beating in some gardens and looked very dead. But the fuchsia comes from hot climates, and I think most will recover. Mine had their top growth killed by the frosts in January, but are breaking again now from the base, as indeed has happened for many years.

Of course some shrubs, like *Choisya ternata*, did not like the dry summer or the cold snaps in winter, and there are dead shoots to be clipped off, but then this often happens.

Conifers that looked brown and dead at the end of the summer still look dead, and I fear will have to be removed or replaced.

One is told in the books not to replant, for example asparagus, in the same bed—if a plant dies do not replace it. The rose specialists say you should remove a large amount of soil and replace it if you wish to plant new roses in an

old bed. This is probably counsel of perfection, as so much of our gardening advice must be. Yet I have successfully replaced asparagus plants that have died.

If a large clump of heather has really died I would dig it out, fork over the soil well, work in a mixture of peat and bonemeal to the top spit of soil, and replant with say three or four young heathers to get a quick replacement ground cover.

I am a great believer, when planting trees or shrubs, in the value of a peat and bonemeal mixture. A double handful of bone meal well mixed with a two gallon bucket full of moist peat worked into say a square yard of planting site can give a tree or shrub a wonderful start in life, and an inch or two of the mixture should be spread under and over the roots before the planting hole is filled in with soil. I have, of course, to make the proviso that one should not put a lot of peat into a planting hole made in a heavy clay soil, because it may act as a sump and fill with water, drowning the roots of the plants.

At this time of year it is well to take the shears or secateurs and trim winter flowering heathers, cutting the shoots made last year back to about half their length. Santolina, the cotton lavender, can be pruned hard now, cutting it back almost to ground level if desired. Nepeta, too, may be trimmed hard now if it has not already been cut back.

Our climate is really very kind, mainly equable, and it permits us to grow a greater variety of plants than can be grown in any other part of the world. But in spring it can be capricious, and for gardening scribes like me, fraught with difficulties. As I write I am afraid that we will have cool weather with cold, and maybe frosty nights even until the end of May, because the soil temperature is several degrees below what it should be at this time.

So I suggest that we make haste slowly. Don't be in a hurry to sow French or runner beans if you live in a cold part of the country. They will still give you a crop even at the end of May. Don't rush to plant out tender plants like dahlias, geraniums, tomatoes and the like, until the weather really shows that it has warmed up.

But, distrustful as I always am about our weather, I would suggest we be prepared for a sudden change to warm and dry conditions. If you have, or can buy, any mulching material that you can put on the garden—compost, half decayed leaves, peat, spent hops or the like—put it on now while the soil is still moist.

Thin and weed all crops raised from seed, flowers and vegetables, at the earliest opportunity. This to me is a number one priority no matter what the weather may be, because seedlings of many plants can be grievously checked if they are left to fight each other and the weeds for air, sun, stone, food and moisture. Some crops recover fairly from check at the seedling stage.

If you are growing vegetables for the first time, or

even if you have always grown some, think ahead a bit and do some planning for successional sowings. Too often people have a great sowing session around Easter and then sit back and do no more sowings. We should, if we want the crops, sow a short row of lettuce every 14 to 20 days from now until August. I still go for Webbs Wonderful as a lettuce that will not bolt to seed in hot weather. But Suttons and Dobbies offer packets of mixed cos and cabbages, lettuce, and these will give you a steady harvest for a good month if you start cutting them when they are quite small.

We can make two or three more sowings of peas at 10-14 day intervals, and we can sow dwarf French beans as late as the first week in June in the south half of England, and be fairly sure of a good crop to follow those we sow in May.

### Roy Hay

Because of the silver jubilee of the Royal Horticultural Society's Chelsea Flower Show is being held a week earlier than usual so that the Queen can make her private visit to the show on Monday, May 16, the day before the show opens.

The show, in the grounds of the Royal Hospital at Chelsea, will be open as follows: Tuesday, May 17, 8.30 am to 8 pm, private view only for holders of members' tickets; Wednesday, May 18, 8.30 am to 8 pm, 25 (for non-ticket holders); Thursday, May 19, 8.30 am to 8 pm; Friday, May 20, 8.30 am to 5 pm, £1.50.

West led the 43 to the 41, winning the spade return and cashing his clubs. On the third club West discarded the 103 and on South's lead of the 42 to the 41. The opportunity to take a second heart. East had to decide whether to throw a heart or a diamond on the 41. With all the hands exposed, his decision seems to have little bearing on the final score: declarer can knock out the 103 and West has then no card of entry for his spades. East knows sufficient from the fall of the cards to assume that his partner has led from a five-card suit and is likely to have the 103.

How then was East to discard declarer from playing hearts? He gave the discard much thought and threw the 102, preserving his double guard in the suit and suggesting to declarer that the ninth trick might come from the long diamond. He had overlooked one important fact.

Declarer led a small diamond from dummy and, because East was compelled to play the 102, made a trick with the 103 before reaching hearts, and, reaching hearts, he had overlooked one important fact.

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Declarer led a small diamond from dummy and, because East was compelled to play the 102, made a trick with the 103 before reaching hearts, and, reaching hearts, he had overlooked one important fact.

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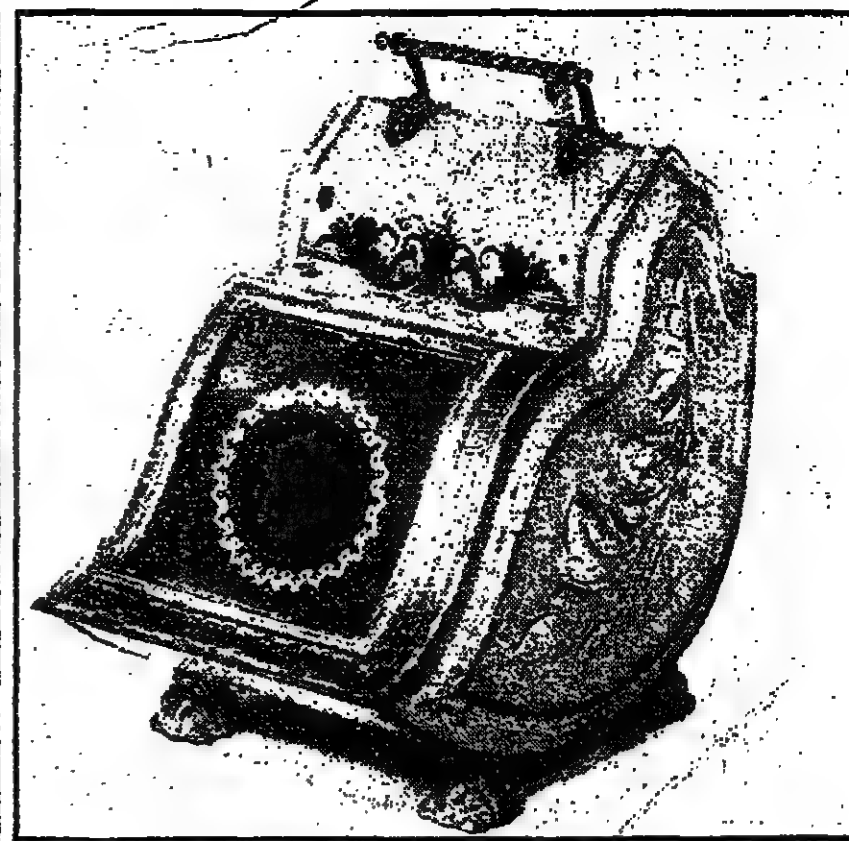
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mentary and a racing. In Devon, James Hawker (Mawflower House, Breton Side, Plymouth) can, if notified beforehand, show visitors the cellars—where the Pilgrim

Fathers spent their last night in England—and premises, established in 1620. There are also many English vineyards able to receive visitors; the centre of the organization—from which information may be obtained—is at the Merrydown Wine Co (Horam Manor, Heathfield, East Sussex), where the English Vineyards Association acts as a cooperative for members who cannot make their own wine. Parties can tour the winery and see something of

the experimental and other vineyards, as well as being able to buy the wines of a number of English vineyards in the shop of the Merrydown Wine Company which also stocks "country" wines, made from various fruits.

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## Sportsview

## Making a fine old racket in Wimbledon's centenary year

This summer will see the centenary of the Wimbledon lawn tennis championships, and the All-England Club has planned a number of side-shows to mark the birthday. On the opening Monday, June 20, half an hour before Bjorn Borg of Sweden, the reigning champion, takes the centre court to set the ball in motion once more, there is to be a parade of singles champions, men and women.

The cavalcade will be led by Mr. Godfree-as Miss Kitty McKane she won in 1924 and 1926-and Jean Borotra, the ageless Bounding Basque. Once more Borotra's black beret will leap to the mind's eye, as will the quicksilver half-volleys of the Frenchman Cochet, the scholasticism of Fred Perry, and the square-headed racket of Jack Crawford, who played with his shirtsleeves buttoned politely at the wrist.

All will be presented with gold medallions as mementoes of past glories, with special replicas struck for "Toro Brugnon", the French doubles specialist, and Miss Elizabeth Ryan, of America, holder of 17 doubles titles, whose record Billy Jean King will try to beat this year.

## Watching the craftsmen

Then there is the new Wimbledon Museum, to be opened officially on May 19 by the Duke of Kent, president of the All-England Club.

Constructed at the side of the centre court overlooking the flowered tealawn, the museum has been arranged and designed by Mr. Robin Wade and his team of craftsmen. Mr. Wade was responsible for the classic Chinese Exhibition at the Royal Academy in 1973 and the 1776 Exhibition at Greenwich.

There will be an old workshop where a craftsman is seen making a racket by hand; a reconstruction of the original changing room at Worple

Road, with its actual Delft washbasin and long lockers for the housing of rackets and croquet mallets.

Next to this will be a Victorian parlour crowded with tennis knick-knacks of the day. An adjacent library, containing more than 1,000 tennis books, photographs and ephemera, will be named The Kenneth Ritchie Wimbledon Library, in memory of Lord Ritchie of Dundee, for long a member of the committee of management of the championships.

A theatre will show snippets of famous matches from a collection of some 400 cassettes, with commentaries by Dan Maskell, Fred Perry and others, including the first ever BBC sound broadcast delivered by Teddy Wakelam, as well as irrelevant but typical asides overheard in a crowd drifting from court to court in high summer: "My dear, my gladioli are doing splendidly..."

There is to be a fashion section tracing the changes of styles from the Edwardian day when Mrs. Storry, twice singles champion, commented: "To my mind nothing is more in keeping with the game than a nice hanging white skirt (about two inches off the ground), white blouse, white band and a pale coloured silk tie and white collar."

The Royal Patronage section embraces photographs of King George VI in action in the doubles championships, together with a two-foot bronze statue of the Duke of Windsor when Prince of Wales.

Central to the whole theme will be effigies of six of the game's giants: W. Renshaw, Mrs. Lambert Chambers, Helen Wills Perry, Tilden and Suzanne Lenglen-constructed of glass fibre and clay. One is reminded of a letter from a correspondent which ended: "And to have seen Borotra at his heights was to have seen what tennis is all about-wild, swift, excessive, brilliant, heart-enchanting."

Geoffrey Green

## Local elections

Some small errors arose in Peter Pulzer's articles last Saturday and Monday. In the table relating to the GLC (last Saturday) the swing in Greenwich since the last GLC election should have read 16.8 per cent, not 8.2 per cent. In Woolwich East the swing since the last GLC election was 22.4 per cent, not 25.1 per cent. In Bradford (last Monday) the swing to the Conservatives since the last general election should read 18.8 per cent, not 12.3 per cent, and the National Front vote in the old city area was 5.3 per cent, not 11.4 per cent.

## Pissarro at Penge, or did he get his lines crossed?

Take a look at this famous painting by the French Impressionist, Camille Pissarro. To generations it has been known as *Penge Station* and to say otherwise would no doubt make the fires of anger in those railway buffs who so virtuously let off steam at Michael Friedland's assertion on this page last Saturday "that the Royal Scot is an engine that never really was". But whatever the reference books may say, Penge, or to be more precise Penge West (it is to be believed Mr. Norman Harvey who said so in the *Beckenham Journal* in 1959), it definitely is not. In a letter to the *Railway Magazine* in March, Mr. Philip Troutman, curator of the Courtland Institute Galleries at the University of London, reported that one of two visitors disagreed with the accepted identification, but could not provide an alternative.

The magazine's readers took up the challenge and in this month's issue came the answer from Mr. B. L. Halford, of Tonbridge, who pointed out that it could not possibly be Penge West because the line through that station was quadrupled 24 years before Pissarro set up his easel.

Mr. Troutman suggested that the picture might have been painted from a bridge over the track (but again the evidence is damning: Penge West is bridgeless). Mr. Halford wrote: "I have considered other stations in the locality and have now positively identified it as Lordship Lane station which was closed in 1954. The painting is of a view from Cox's Walk rustic footbridge, looking north towards Northwood, and the train is travelling towards Crystal Palace (High Level) terminus... the branch was opened in 1865, and, as little undergrowth has appeared along the earthworks



An osprey takes its prey: Photograph by Stigman Jonsson.

## Why the birds' egg snatchers could be in for a shock

Now is the time when chick thieves and nest raiders, the pirates of aviculture, go to work. Four years have been taken by some agile felon from an osprey's nest and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds is mounting the biggest security campaign yet to guard the eyries of those birds of prey which in Scotland have become preyed-upon birds.

There are 16 known pairs of ospreys in the Highlands and the Scottish population has survived from within a wingtip of extinction. The golden eagle, too, is growing in numbers after falling foul of egg collectors, gamekeepers with old-fashioned ideas and pesticides that once in the food chain, rendered eggs infertile.

The greatest effort in Scotland this year will be put into the protection of the peregrine falcon. This majestic but vulnerable species is under attack for a number of reasons. Britain now has about 500 pairs of peregrines, probably the largest concentration in Europe. Most of them are in Scotland. In other countries where the peregrine is a status bird, sought by falconers because of its speed and fine

flight-or by grosser souls because it can even look handsome in a glass case, stuffed, the species has suffered severely.

In Scandinavia where once there were more than 2,500 pairs the decline has been catastrophic. Norway has only 10, Sweden eight, Finland 30, and Denmark none. In West Germany where the peregrine is most prized, conservationists say there are fewer than 25 pairs.

Pesticides have done the most damage. The peregrine is regarded as a sensitive barometer to the state of the environment. "It is a kind of miner's canary to pollution. If a stretch of moorland can support healthy peregrines that is the best compliment a landscape could have because it means his land is in excellent condition. The grouse of Scotland have allowed the peregrine population to thrive", said Mr. Douglas Wair, whose study of the peregrine is supported by the World Wildlife Fund.

During the next few weeks peregrine nests will inevitably be the target for illegal raiders. Some will be after the

eggs either to incubate or to collect, others will go for the young chicks which can be reared for sale to dealers on the continent. The money involved in these transactions has probably been exaggerated. "The man who raids the nest does not see anything like the £1,000 or more which is supposed to be paid by wealthy falconers for a good bird, but even so it is a lot of money to have lying on an unprotected ledge", he added.

About £300 is the maximum paid in Britain for a peregrine and the "fancy inflation" strikes higher up the ladder than the original thief. The market for stolen birds is now thought less likely to be among wealthy Arab falconers but much closer to home. "People can become quite obsessed with the idea of owning one of these birds even though there is no hope of them ever flying. It properly said Mr. Douglas Wair, whose study of the peregrine is supported by the World Wildlife Fund.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds is spending several thousands of pounds to provide more wardens to watch

vulnerable eyries. Infinitely subtle measures are being employed to guard the eggs. "We do not want to give details but we are taking steps this year we have never taken before to catch nest raiders. In certain areas we will be on watch round the clock. We also have lists of known thieves and the car numbers of some of them", a society official said.

In America certain types of pesticides wiped out the peregrine but after a \$500,000 research programme, Cornell University has succeeded in breeding the falcons in captivity and hopes to reestablish them in the wild.

Ironically the success of artificially breeding birds preaches a legal snag that helps the thieves. It is difficult to prove a particular bird has been taken illegally if the owner swears it has been bred in captivity. That has been the position up to now but this season could see a change. We have something up our sleeve which I hope will give the nest raiders quite a shock", one warden said.

Ronald Faux



A detail from Pissarro's painting, Penge Station.

Ion Trewin

## Interfaith relations and the problems of the Holy City

Even in the 1970s it is impossible to divest Jerusalem of a special religious sense. Popularly this may be no more than a vague notion that it is the place "where it all began", though it is pretty common knowledge that the Holy City is particularly associated with Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

It is necessary to be more specific if we are to understand the contemporary interfaith situation in that part of the world. For Judaism, Jerusalem, ever since King David made it his capital circa 1,000 BC, has been both the symbol and the centre of its special tie-up with the Holy Land. For Christianity it is sacred because of the acts and words of Jesus, climaxed in the crucifixion and resurrection. For Islam, although Jerusalem stands only third in relation to Medina and Mecca, yet even this "third direction in prayer" gives it a permanent place in Muslim interest. Thus the city is holy in different ways to all three religions.

Historically this has proved to be more than an accepted religious ideal. It has expressed itself in the concrete: holy places, distinctive religious communities with geographical city quarters. For the sheer fact of living Jerusalem has been and

remains paramount. For Christians the "holy places and rites" have proved most distinctive. Popularly this may be no more than a vague notion that it is the place "where it all began", though it is pretty common knowledge that the Holy City is particularly associated with Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

All this and much more was interrupted by the dividing of the city in 1948. Although the political and geographical demarcation with its "concrete walls" and "barbed wire" were paramount, the resulting blockage in human communication more than anything else frustrated the interfaith potential in the Holy Land in general and Jerusalem in particular.

Christians are concerned is that the contemporary actuality of Israel concentrated and centered the whole of the past relationship of the Church and the Jewish people in the reality of the present.

Inevitably that meant on the Christian side recognizing the Church's involvement in anti-Semitism and its precursor anti-Judaism-neither overstated nor understated. This is not only a matter of being implicated in racial prejudice, but also the effect of an historical Christian denial of the validity of Judaism in its own terms.

The Church has become accustomed to the demand for a radical reorientation in the emerging of the new sovereign state in Africa. In the case of Israel even more is required. It was not merely the shedding of the Church's alignment with a past Western imperialistic regime that is in question but the more difficult theological reappraisal of accepting the fact that Judaism was not only valid but very much alive and kicking when for centuries it had been relegated to a has been.

The first voluntary organization in the field was the Israel Interfaith Committee founded in 1950. Its modest aim at first was to facilitate a continuation of social contact which had already existed before the state but had been severely interrupted by strife, blockade

links the "Heavenly Jerusalem" to the earthly, real and visible city. Thus it is not surprising that the milestones of the interfaith movement can to a great extent be seen as the way in which the religious coping with actual events and crises in the Holy Land. As already indicated, for the Church the emergence of the state of Israel was (and to some measure remains) theologically traumatic. The problem for Islam is different and is mainly concerned with the necessity for a politico-religious readjustment brought about by its minority status in Israel. From the outset the new state set up two departments for Muslim and Christian concerns in its Ministry of Religious Affairs. Such legal provision, good and essential as it is, could hardly be expected to create an interfaith dialogue and forge deep and genuine interfaith relations. That is by its very nature a voluntary activity though admittedly eased by a favourable legal structure.

Both the supporters and antagonists on the Christian side. Further it displayed two specific characteristics that have increasingly become a hallmark of the interfaith movement in Israel. First is the freedom to criticize specific Israeli policy and action with an equally free acceptance of responsibility to urge for the right of Israel to exist. Second is the recognition that if interfaith relations are to have any effect on intercommunal life then the full identity of the various interfaith partners needs to be understood and respected.

It is hardly short of a miracle that the tender plant of the interfaith dialogue movement was not wrecked by the 1967 crisis and war. In the meantime on the Christian side there developed an organization for the essential Christian theological stocktaking necessary if the dialogue was to gain both depth and momentum. The Jewish side of this was well looked after in the Hebrew University sub-department for comparative religions, which radically changed the usual role of the accustomed Christian position of strength in the West. The Christian side was somewhat clumsily named the Ecumenical Theological Research Fraternity in Israel.

The crisis caused throughout the Jewish world by the UN declaration defining Zionism as racism in 1975 was understandably acute in Israel. The fraternity met this with an appeal to the churches around the world in terms that have been appraised in this country as both restrained and theologically impressive. The most recent crisis in the area of urban development is not a monopoly of Jerusalem. The enforced evictions of some Arab families from the perimeter of the Jewish city quarter even though carried out after a full appeal hearing and with the provision of alternative housing aroused, we believe rightly, the concern of members of the interfaith movement in Jerusalem before it made news in Britain.

The terms of the appeal finally published in *The Jerusalem Post* of January 19, 1977, speak best for themselves. "We hereby appeal to the Ministers in charge of Housing and Religious Affairs to the chairman of the Ministerial Committee on Jerusalem, and to the Mayor of Jerusalem to postpone and prevent the eviction of the few Muslim families who still live in the Jewish quarter of the Old City, in the area which was not included in the quarter prior to the War of Independence. These evictions-and the trend

George Hutchinson

## Time could be on Labour's side, but it is too late

We now have the Campaign Guide, an invaluable compendium of 789 pages compiled by the Conservative Research Department-but no campaign. When can we expect one? What is the outlook?

We are entitled to assume, without exaggeration, that the Conservatives would secure a massive victory in an early general election. Gratified though he is by all the agreeable, not to say sycophantic, aspects of his exercise in "suntanbury" and "suntanbury" (satisfaction), Mr. Callaghan's London conference cannot be expected to reverse the national judgment on his administration, so tellingly expressed in the recent poll, or even to modify it to any great degree.

Nor will he be saved by public interest in the forthcoming Commonwealth conference in London, with or without President Amin. Given the measure of his plight, electoral salvation is not to be found in ceremonial and the personal attention accompanying it. Vainly the elections may be: but they are not as volatile (or wayward) as all that.

Their mistrust of Labour is too deep-seated for them to be disarmed by a succession of sunny appearances on television or the promise of a "golden decade ahead". While the Prime Minister may be quite well liked (not without reason), he is not always believed.

Mr. Callaghan was not born yesterday. He knows this. He is too old a hand not to know it, and is correspondingly determined to defer the test. Underpinning (if that is the word) by Mr. Steel and his platoon of chocolate soldiers, he may even succeed in postponing the day of reckoning until next year.

In all honesty, you may say, he should go to the country without further procrastination, recognizing the strength of feeling against his Government and its Liberal auxiliaries. In all honesty he should indeed do so-but he will not. So long as Messrs Steel and Co continue to shore him up, and in the absence of any calamity, he will not be shamed into an early election.

He may therefore survive into 1978-a threesome prospect for the Conservatives, when the bulk of the discontents are so clearly calling for office as to make a change inevitable. He may even survive into 1979, when the Conservative Party is so clearly calling for office as to make a change inevitable. He may even survive into 1980, when the Conservative Party is so clearly calling for office as to make a change inevitable.

I doubt it myself. I believe that the Conservative Party, from Labour, and the surge towards the Conservatives, will be maintained. It will not be reversed, it will not evaporate, unless the Tories are themselves guilty of some appalling misjudgment in the interval.

Such a misjudgment, or miscalculation, could of course occur, although it seems unlikely under Mrs. Thatcher's direction. She is increasingly sure-footed, and much in tune with national sentiment. For example, she understands the widespread and growing disillusionment with the EEC and the popular resentment over food prices which the Common Agricultural Policy has provoked. As her friend Mr. John Bifford was saying the other day: "One of the many advantages of the leadership of Mrs. Thatcher is that the Conservative Party is enabled to have a much more relaxed discussion of Britain's relations with her sister countries within the European Community and the evolving character of the Common Market itself."

The truth is that there is little electoral mileage to be had from one area of enthusiasm for the EEC at a time when the value of our membership is increasingly suspect.

Similarly, Mrs. Thatcher acknowledges the objections to

devolution policy as a received and determined her instincts are probably those of the Conservative, who like the Tories are in favour of unity instead of chaotic separation.

A comparable objection can be made of her towards immigration and need for restrictions. Thatcher is no advocate of excessively indulgent "door" policy so dear to Liberals. In this she is in line with moderate-as distinct from extreme-opinion, the view which the vast majority of her constituents produced the strains to which the National Front now professes more than a passing interest.

Over large immigration numbers concentrated in particular neighbourhoods is produced the strains to which the National Front now professes more than a passing interest. But this is not the only one of her challenges lying ahead. Mr. Thatcher-for it is she, rather than Mr. Callaghan, who will ultimately have to face them. Labour, with or without Liberal collaboration, is in a condition to govern successfully during the interval only because it has lost its national conscience. Mr. Callaghan is a man of a dying administration. The rule is both unsteady and ineffectual (although the fault is more Sir Harold Wilson's than his own).

The Conservative Party's responsibility attaches to Mr. Thatcher as she prepares for office. Besides her own party, thousands upon thousands of former Labour and Liberal supporters have declared their trust in her and will expect her to live up to it. I wonder how many people realize that we may lose our familiar and distinctive British passport before long. The Conservative Party's responsibility attaches to Mr. Thatcher as she prepares for office. Besides her own party, thousands upon thousands of former Labour and Liberal supporters have declared their trust in her and will expect her to live up to it.

It is a pity that the Conservative Party is so clearly calling for office as to make a change inevitable. He may even survive into 1979, when the Conservative Party is so clearly calling for office as to make a change inevitable. He may even survive into 1980, when the Conservative Party is so clearly calling for office as to make a change inevitable.

The colour, I gather, may be deep lilac-and unless Parliament asserts itself we shall have no choice but to accept this wretched and demeaning innovation. Technically, it can be introduced by Royal Warrant, without debate in the House of Commons.

Fortunately, the national sentiment, as I judge, has a champion in Mr. Michael Foot, Minister of State for the Home Office. Mr. Foot is determined to bring on a debate. Of his own feelings he has this to say: "It will be argued that this is an ancient and old-fashioned tradition. I would proudly accept such arguments, but there is nothing wrong in either of them." Hear, hear, and cheer for Neil Martin.

To his credit, Mr. Foot, Minister of State for the Home Office, has acknowledged that the proposal (though it is more than a year old) ought to be debated. It is now up to the old and Mr. Foot, Minister of State for the Home Office, to arrange a debate. He will be guilty of serious failure if he neglects to do so.

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## NEW OPTIMISM IN ULSTER

eleven days Mr Ian Paisley and his political and paramilitary associates have been hounding and coercing the people of Ulster to bring the economic life of the province to a halt. The people of Ulster have stood the exhortation and the coercion, even though it has included physical menaces, personal threats, and murder. They have stood their ground in the face of the fact that most of them agree with the ostensible aim of the strike, tepidly with the aim of securing a reconstituted Stormont Parliament and government and fervently with the aim of enforcing a more active security policy. It is the aim proposed to them by the strike, however, that they have rejected. They have the sense to reject the notion that they could improve their position by inflicting serious damage on their shaky economy, and achieve the firmer establishment of civil order by warring to anarchy. They have rational concern for their livelihoods and they are sick to death of commotion, destruction and lawlessness. They have led out against the powerful but ineffectual Mr Paisley, the only too credible threats of anonymous bullies. They serve the good opinion of their fellow citizens in the United Kingdom.

So does the administration at Stormont Castle. With the sons of the 1974 strike in mind, its preparations were thorough, its responses to the "hikers" tactics were well judged, and its visible assertion of constitutional authority from

the outset was something round which the people could rally. The Royal Ulster Constabulary, which bore the brunt of the action, has signally enhanced its reputation as an impartial and effective police force, and that is not the least of the benefits to be counted in the successful dismissal of this challenge.

The episode has caused a faint note of optimism to be detectable again in Ulster. The once successful and long pondered threat of extra-constitutional "loyalism" has been ousted by the community and the government. The forces of moderation in the province are strengthened. The possibility of constructive political movement is reopened. True, established party leaders in a barrage of exchanges in front of next week's local elections appear to want to slam it shut again. And it would be silly to suppose that entrenched positions on such matters as "power sharing" are suddenly to become fluid. But things will not be quite the same in Northern Ireland after the raggedly collapsing strike as before it. This will be reflected on the level of politics. What form the development takes may not become apparent for some time. But at least it would now be appropriate to put on the agenda the reconstruction of Northern Ireland's diminished local government.

Taking precedence over the political dimension both in immediacy and in importance is the question of security. There is a real danger in Northern Ireland that both communities for more

effective protection against politically inspired terrorism and its associated criminality in the shape of intimidation, racketeering, robbery and extortion. The hunger is not satisfied by perfectly genuine statistics showing that the level of violence has been brought below that of twelve months ago.

The opportunities presented by the collapse of the strike would be far more likely to ripen if the Secretary of State could convince Ulstermen that the Government share their concern to the full. That is a difficult thing to do even for so convincing a proconsul as Mr Mason; and it is not to be done by lurching into new policies against his advisers' better judgment. More thrust, however, could be given to existing policies, and the merits of supplementary measures could with advantage be reviewed.

In particular there should be reassessment of arguments that such and such a measure would be counterproductive because of political repercussions in the Roman Catholic communities in the North or in the Irish Republic. They should be reassessed in the light of changes in the Republic's own security policy and in sentiment there, and in the light of the improved standing of the RUC, the better acceptability of the Northern Ireland Administration and the undoubted yearning of by far the greater part of the Roman Catholic population in the North to have the Provisional IRA taken off their backs.

## CRICKET UNDER CHALLENGE

There is nothing to be deplored in any professional sportsman seeking to improve his financial position. He obtains from his ill-fated playing days are usually relatively short, and at the end of them, usually during his twenties, he often has to seek a new career at a particularly awkward stage of his life. Sportsmen, too, have children, mortgages and other responsibilities, and to say that they should, for the sake of the game, forgo financial advantages offered to them is as absurd as suggesting that someone who loves being in business should be satisfied with very low profits.

Cricketers have fared worse than most other professional sportsmen. With very few exceptions, their earnings, compared with those of even the poorest footballers are extremely low. A few have the opportunity of playing cricket the year-round, but for many a county player, each winter brings a renewed search for a job, or the dole.

It is therefore natural that they should be looking out for opportunities to increase their incomes from the game and, rationally, any scheme which would enable them to do that would be welcomed as increased sponsorship over the past few years has been. The proposal Mr Packer's cricket circus, however, cannot be accepted as any enthusiasm. Arrangements for obtaining the services

of cricketers were carried out in a clandestine manner, with Tony Greig playing a large part as recruiting agent. For that reason alone, while acknowledging the considerable contribution he has made to English cricket, it was right that the decision was taken yesterday no longer to consider him for the captaincy of England. What is more, disturbing about the circus is that its plans cut directly across two forthcoming Test series. The consequences to cricket of such a confrontation cannot be anticipated without considerable concern.

The chances of the circus remaining in hold over the cricket watching public for any length of time, after the novelty of it has worn off, is problematical. There must be a limit to the delights of watching the same two or three teams playing each other over and over, especially in the absence of the emotional patriotic allegiances which, for many, play a large part in the enjoyment of the game. Experience so far has shown that matches involving teams not based on geographical or national identity, however many stars they contain, do not provide a high degree of satisfaction and drama.

The danger of the circus for England is that, in the short run, it will disrupt the pattern of Test cricket, reducing it, for a while at least, to second-rank status, and that this diminution of the

Test game will have a detrimental effect on the already none too healthy county championship. If the country's best players were not available for Test selection, attendance figures and club finances would inevitably suffer. Interest in the game, at all levels, decline, and sponsors would look elsewhere to place their money.

That is perhaps too gloomy a view. It is possible that interest in the circus, would stimulate players to try to reach the standards required for the big rewards available. If the circus is successful, more people might be attracted to cricket, at all levels, and sponsors might find it worth their while putting more money into the game generally. Such a trend would benefit the cricketers most in need of financial incentives—the loyal and regular county players not quite good enough to reach the top, and the promising young players who are, at present, dissuaded from coming into the game professionally because of its poor rewards.

The response of the world's cricketing authorities to the circus must be firm, but not panicky. They cannot be expected to accept the intrusion without a measured degree of opposition, but there should be no over-reaction. Above all, Mr Packer's challenge must be met by all cricketing countries in unison. Nothing will so harm the game as disunity among the nations that hold it dear.

## PAKISTAN'S UNHAPPY DIVISIONS

Bhutto has told the National Assembly that Pakistan can put end to the "nightmare" of the past two months only by holding a referendum. The people must decide either for or against Mr Bhutto's continued leadership of the country. This is the dialogue with the opposition Pakistan National Alliance will not go on and the position in turn are saying they will have nothing to do with the referendum. There is no kind of compromise in it. The country's political future will remain at cross-purposes.

Of course there is a shrewd tactical calculation behind Mr Bhutto's seemingly despairing intransigence. There was never any chance that he would accept opposition's stubbornly changed demand for his resignation, for the dissolution of the assembly and for fresh elections under a new electoral commission. In the early stages their campaign popular feeling in the cities was supporting opposition protest at the id elections—though some opposition seats may have been won by the same means. The thousands of demonstrators who were fired on sent Bhutto's stock down further. In the past three weeks the momentum behind the opposi-

tion campaign has ebbed while Mr Bhutto's power was enhanced when his chosen army leaders stood firm. Borrowing Mao Tse-tung's strategy of struggling and talking—arresting the opposition leaders and bargaining with them—Mr Bhutto was able to play for time and let the opposition expose their own weakness.

Most obviously this was in their lack of an alternative national leader—outside the considerable, but strictly Islamic reputation of some. The religious and political mixture of the opposition alliance, both progressive and reactionary, never looked like hardening into an agreed policy with a popular appeal. The only issue that did unite them was the demand for Mr Bhutto to leave the field. Rather than risk any further elections, whether provincial or national, Mr Bhutto has preferred to accept the personal challenge. He knows that if the bulk of the urban vote goes against him he can still rely on a pleasant rural vote that can be safely garnered in his interest.

Mr Bhutto's emotional statement yesterday hinted at some change in the constitution if a referendum confirmed him in office. From the sudden imposition of a much stricter press censorship it may be that a

referendum will only be instituted with difficulty. Furthermore, from the beginning of the current crisis, Mr Bhutto has been making much of the dangers of outside intervention. He reverted to this theme again yesterday. It is known that during the crisis he has invited Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states as mediators. His wider allegations against the Americans should surely have been allayed.

Perhaps in trying on such fears he was trying to revive memories of the threat of Pakistan's disintegration in the critical years 1970 and 1971. His Pakistan People's Party then had the support of the urban classes who saw Mr Bhutto as a progressive force after the sterile years of military rule. But over the past six years Mr Bhutto's dictatorial methods, the unchanged state of emergency with its restrictions on political and press freedom coupled with the gradual desertion of some of his most able lieutenants have combined to erode that support. In the March elections Mr Bhutto had to look for support to rural landlords against growing disappointment and opposition in the towns. Instead of finding its political life, like India's, clarified by the elections, Pakistan has only exposed unhappy divisions.

## PLUTONIUM ECONOMY

Mr G. N. Walton

Plutonium is discussed by Professor Ziman (The Times, April 1) and by many others, as if it is only one type. The element, which, like uranium, consists of a mixture of isotopes, some of which are useful as fuel in reactors, and some which do not generate heat and tend to quench the fission process. The water-cooled reactors developed in the USA (and Canada) necessarily produce plutonium with a large proportion of the long-lived isotope, which cannot be continually recycled. The added value of recycling is low and, optimistically, it is only marginally

advantageous, if not disadvantageous, to invest in the processing technology required. There is no possibility of separating plutonium isotopes on a commercial scale as there is for uranium.

The gas-cooled reactors developed in this country, on the other hand, produce plutonium with a high proportion of the fissionable isotope. The plutonium bred in the gas reactor will also be highly valuable as a fuel and can be repeatedly re-cycled indefinitely. President Carter may be well advised to stop re-processing American plutonium, but it does not follow that our Government is well advised to stop planning to use British plutonium.

One ton of fissile plutonium is equivalent in energy to over one million tons of coal, or oil, and we have time to plan the use of plutonium with the greatest possible care. Professor Ziman refers to the threat to civil liberties; there is also the threat to our countryside and to the North Sea if the coal and oil is irresponsibly exploited. Yours faithfully, G. N. WALTON, Professor of Nuclear Technology, Department of Chemical Engineering and Chemical Technology, Imperial College of Science and Technology, Prince Consort Road, SW7, April 27.

## The next British Ambassador in Washington

From Lord Caccia

Sir, There can be no objection in principle to the belief expressed by some of your correspondents that the man or woman that has the best qualifications for the job should get it. That is other things being equal.

In this case other things are not equal.

The reason is the simple one, that it is not possible to avoid the appearance, if not the reality, of nepotism. Some parliamentarians may console themselves that there have been other cases in the recent past of high posts being given to relations or close personal friends of leading politicians. But it would be a tragic mistake if they were to think that this will be a balm to the risk is that it will convince a growing number that the way our affairs are run is just as venal and insensitive as they feared.

To go to more transient considerations, Mr Jay amongst many other virtues is plain spoken and has made no bones of the fact that he is, and has always been, a convinced Socialist. If the present Government were to fall, a Conservative Prime Minister would be put in an embarrassing position to say the least of it; as would Mr Jay himself. Being the man he is, I should expect him not only to offer his resignation in such circumstances but to insist on it. For too much government business of every kind goes through Washington to make it at all effective for the Ambassador there to be in fundamental political opposition to the policies of Her Majesty's Government. It has been tried and does not work, whatever the personal respect there may be between the Foreign Secretary and Ambassador. So, on present showing, Mr Jay's appointment might all too likely set the British record for brevity.

As to the manner of the change, there can be nothing but contempt for the whiggishness that have been calculated about the way in which Sir Peter Ramsbotham held our name and interests high against all the odds. Nor should the belief be cherished that the US Government, that is the President and the Congress of the United States, will be more ready to listen to us over Concordia and so on so long as we put our trust in "plain living and high thinking" than if our Ambassador rather than on the merits of our ambassadorial post.

He might consider the conditions prevailing at the time of Walpole or the Pelhams in the eighteenth century or, better still, the methods adopted in the early seventeenth century by the Duke of Buckingham who brought his sisters and his sons and am am am particularly influential. Earlier still William Cecil showed himself a master of patronage and gained for Elizabethan England the sobriquet *Regnum Cecilianum*—Cecil's realm.

I have been a supporter of the Labour Party since I was a schoolboy and I am particularly interested in the precedent set by Sir Robert Peel. But I greatly admired C. R. Arliss whose comments on the going-on of the last few years would, I am sure, have been pertinent and memorable. He might, perhaps, have reminded us that the Labour Party and the Labour Government are not the private property of a single individual.

Having made such a blunder there remains but one thing for me to do. If he does it, I would certainly recommend him for the post of Ambassador in Washington. He appears to enjoy greater confidence and respect with President Carter than with some members of his party. As for his Foreign Secretary, his constituents will no doubt take the opportunity at the next election of making clear to him what they think of his antics. Yours, etc, JOEL HURSTFIELD, 7 Glastonbury Road, Hampton, NW3, May 13.

From Lord Sherfield

Sir, As I am about to become the last British Ambassador in Washington but seven, perhaps you can find space for a comment on the appointment of Mr Peter Jay to that enviable post.

I do not know Mr Jay, but it appears to have qualifications which should ensure a successful mission, and as he is well fitted for the post I do not agree with the view that the fact of his happening to be the Prime Minister's son-in-law should stand against him. Further it is at least understandable that a new Foreign Secretary might wish to have his own man in Washington.

But to meet criticism of the appointment by denigrating the performance of Sir Peter Ramsbotham is not only unjust but perfectly disgraceful, and those who are putting these allegations about should be thoroughly ashamed of themselves.

As I have had many occasions to observe in person over the last three years, Sir Peter Ramsbotham has won admiration and respect in all parts of the United States by the effective way in which he has conducted his Embassy, defended British interests, and explained and interpreted the situation in Britain. I am sure that the welcome which will be accorded to Mr Jay on his arrival in Washington will be tempered by deep and sincere regret at the premature departure of his distinguished predecessor.

Yours faithfully, RICHARD ALLINGTON SMITH, The Vicarage, 80 Broadview Avenue, Rainham, Kent, May 13.

From Lord Trevelyan

Sir, If I had not been lost through yesterday in the Committee rooms of the House of Lords, I should have been glad to join my colleagues at Stanhope Gate in their jubilation that Mr Peter Jay is admirably qualified to be Ambassador in Washington. Moreover, it is reasonable for a Foreign Secretary to make a change of ambassadors if he considers that the appearance of a new President in Washington requires an Ambassador with particular qualifications, and Mr Jay's relationship to the Prime Minister is no more of a disqualification than Lord Harlech's relationship with Mr Harold Macmillan.

I was, however, distressed to read later in the day, in the press, suggestions that Sir Peter Ramsbotham had been unsuited in character and temperament for the post. I believe this to be wholly untrue. All Sir Peter's colleagues will testify to his continued success in important posts throughout his career in the Diplomatic Service and I feel sure that in Washington also he has served his country well.

Yours faithfully, TREVELYAN, 1 Stanhope Gate, W1, May 13.

From Professor Joel Hurstfield

Sir, I am sure that Sir Peter Ramsbotham's many friends and admirers, who know of the excellent job that he has done for this country in Washington, will have been extremely annoyed at the reports of his dismissal. It is a sad and extravagant approach to diplomacy, reported in today's media. All who know him and have witnessed him at first hand "on the job"—be it at the White House or Washington—I feel sure will agree that this criticism is both untrue and unfair.

Yours faithfully, MARIE-LOUISE DE ZULUETA, 11 Vicarage Gardens, W8, May 12.

From Mr D. M. Graham (Letters)

Sir, May 13, is looking for historical precedents for the appointment to public office by Mr Callaghan of a close member of his family. I will gladly take him a good deal further back than Sir Robert Peel.

He might consider the conditions prevailing at the time of Walpole or the Pelhams in the eighteenth century or, better still, the methods adopted in the early seventeenth century by the Duke of Buckingham who brought his sisters and his sons and am am particularly influential. Earlier still William Cecil showed himself a master of patronage and gained for Elizabethan England the sobriquet *Regnum Cecilianum*—Cecil's realm.

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From the Reverend R. Allington Smith

Sir, There is sobriety: and there is inverted sobriety. Again there is nepotism and also inverted nepotism, which would bar persons otherwise well qualified to office on account of family connections. I am glad the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary have not succumbed to it.

Yours faithfully, RICHARD ALLINGTON SMITH, The Vicarage, 80 Broadview Avenue, Rainham, Kent, May 12.

From Mrs Beverly Price

Sir, On April 30 an auction garden party was held at the British Embassy in Washington DC for the benefit of Independent Living for the Handicapped. I would like to enumerate the facts of this party for your readers.

Although this unique hands-on-the-sea event was held at the British Embassy it was, as usual, at no cost to the British taxpayer. All services, food and beverage, printing items and "services" auctioned were donated; even the clean-up and parking was done by volunteers. Senator Humphrey, Senator Mathias, J. Carter Brown, Curator of the National Gallery of Art, Mrs Alice Roosevelt Longworth and Mr and Mrs John Warner (Liz Taylor Warner) all donated either a lunch or a picnic with themselves to be auctioned. The proceeds of this charity event are for housing for physically handicapped but mentally alert young adults. All who were part of the British Embassy Auction garden party are proud to have been associated with Sir Peter Ramsbotham, who is such an outstanding diplomat and ambassador. Yours faithfully, S. C. LESLIE, 5a View Road, NE, May 12.

From Mr B. G. Joslin

Sir, It is possible that those who protest, see in Mr Jay's appointment the same wrong on the wall begun recently by Messrs Tugendhat and Owen, namely that a new generation is at last being given responsibility. I look forward to their refreshing ideas.

Yours sincerely, B. G. JOSLIN, 47 High Street, Shornham, Swanton, Kent, May 12.

From Mr Evelyn Gibson

Sir, The Times readers at least should approve the appointment of Mr Jay. Personally, I have long wished that he could be Chancellor of the Exchequer. Mr Callaghan is to be congratulated on his courage, his view of the inevitable accusations of nepotism. These are, of course, rubbish. What about Mr Duncan Sandys and Mr Christopher Soames? And no one ever said that all Salisbury Cecils, Macmillans and Churchills should be banned from office. The objection to nepotism (or "government by crony") is to the appointment of unsuitable people.

Yours faithfully, EVELYN GIBSON, 7 Chermouth Court, Kings Road, Richmond, Surrey, May 12.

## Fair reporting of race

From the Chairman of The Press Council

Sir, Had it not been for Lord Pini's letter (May 12), I would have made no comment on your excellent leading article on the proper treatment of racial issues by newspapers (May 9). As it is, I would merely wish to observe that the Press Council is hardly "in dispute" with the Community Relations Commission, as your leader suggests. I would prefer to say we are in a dialogue with them.

But even so, a modest plea as that made in Lord Pini's letter involves some misunderstanding of the techniques of newspaper publication. To attract interest, newspaper stories often require a certain liveliness which some may consider sensationalism. This is one of the conditions of modern society and it is a characteristic of many ethnic newspapers. Type and language must catch the eye of readers; their attention must be held; enthusiasm created and sustained. Unless this is done there are no readers and if there are no readers the operation is sterile. This is not a case of saying the public gets the press it deserves, only that by and large it gets a press which is tailored with varying degrees of requirement to the general climate of public opinion.

Similarly, it has to be understood that reporting and editing are subjective activities. It is the task of the press to report events and the reactions to events, to report allegations and to gravitate towards the uncommon, which is news. It is not the duty of the press to withhold from the public news of events while it jangles with all the various viewpoints on any issue in order to achieve, almost certainly too late, what the Community Relations Commission's memorandum described as "an adequate assessment of conflicting views and of events". The duty of the press, which the Press Council is always ready to demand of it, is to have a responsible regard for the public welfare. Certainly the Community Relations Commission and the Press Council share the view that moderation on the part of newspapers is very much to be desired, and certainly not least among ethnic newspapers.

It is not possible to have a personal knowledge of the particular case to which Lord Pini refers but, in general, the obiter dicta of judges in such circumstances must be seen in perspective and not made the basis of generalizations. Anyone who has heard four litigate and honest witnesses give accounts of the same incident which they have seen, such as a road accident, knows how varying and even conflicting such accounts may be. Perhaps all that can safely be said about the case in question is that the evidence given in court, differed from accounts published in the press by journalists who were not themselves called to give evidence.

That said, I do most earnestly endorse the view that editors and individual journalists should in these, as in other matters, with real sense of responsibility, strive for the most accurate and objective reporting of events which the circumstances permit, while, on the other hand, not closing their eyes to their own errors.

Yours sincerely, HARTLEY SHAWCROSS, Chairman, The Press Council, New Mercury House, 81 Farringdon Street, EC4, May 13.

From Mr Geoffrey Harnsworth

Sir, Recalling events in its history of nearly 70 years ago, The Times, with characteristic condescension, informs its readers in its leader "The past in our present" (May 11), that "it was Northcliffe who rescued The Times from dullness and it was the Astors and Geoffrey Dawson who rescued The Times from Northcliffe".

There is rather more to the story than that, and this can be gleaned by consulting the monumental "History of The Times", volume 3, written, printed and published at the office of The Times", 1947. On page 490 the author who, incidentally, said no great good of Northcliffe, quotes that "To him, The Times owes its transformation from a bankrupt nineteenth-century relic into a flourishing twentieth-century property. The Times would have been founded without him. Northcliffe alone has the honour it was he, his work, his inventions and his changes that alone re-established the property".

It is fitting that The Times, not without its difficulties today, should be reminded of these facts. Nor did the Astors and Dawson "rescue" The Times from Northcliffe. The newspaper was acquired by them from Northcliffe's executors. Yours faithfully, GEOFFREY HARNSWORTH, 8 Stratton Street, W1, May 12.

From Mr Max Lessar

Sir, I fail to see why the question of a memorial to Dylan Thomas in Westminster Abbey should be so complex, as reported by your Arts Reporter (May 11). Over the years the Abbey has become cluttered by the flood of eighteenth and nineteenth century memorials to many men who were and remain utterly distinguished, save by their wealth.

Although a case could no doubt be made for memorials to several as yet uncommemorated authors, Dylan Thomas stands out as a pre-eminent poet who contributed richly to the cultural life of Wales, Britain and the English speaking world. A discreet plaque would take up little room and could be speedily erected, so there is no excuse for the ecclesiastical authorities to tie a knot of red tape around "complexities". President Carter's rejection in this regard can only be welcomed, but the case stands firmly on its own merits.

Yours faithfully, MAX LESSAR, 18 Hawkshead Road, W4, May 12.

From Mr Jack Lindsay

Sir, If it is indeed true that the Soviet Union has the means of dealing with nuclear missiles before they land, would it not be best for the Americans to devise a similar system so that each side could explode any missiles of the other harmlessly and so enable us to sleep at night? To develop the Cruise Missile means that in a short while the Soviet Union will be able to launch a nuclear war and we shall be all at the mercy of universal destruction.

Yours faithfully, JACK LINDSAY, Castle Hedingham, Essex.

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## University legacies

From Professor Malcolm Woodbine and Mr Donald Harrison

Sir, Concern for the efficiency of our education system and the financial constraints on two matters of great moment in our national life today. A critical balance has to be struck between desirable investment in the future intellectual endowment of our people and the necessary limitation of expenditure. This tension has been felt in all sectors of education and not least in our universities.

We wonder, Sir, if some of your readers who give serious thought to the bequests made in their wills may not realize that universities are empowered by their Charters to receive legacies, bequests, or gifts for purposes of education or research.

Very often in published reports of wills we read "and quite deserving" charitable bodies, indicating the wish of the testators that good use should be made in this world of funds which cannot be transferred to the next. Without decrying such bequests, we submit that the advancement and transmission of learning, teaching and research at the highest levels is also a worthy (and needy) destination for large or small amounts.

Yours faithfully, MALCOLM WOODBINE, Professor of Agricultural Microbiology, University of Nottingham.

## Jubilee post

From Mr J. G. Robinson

Sir, The Price Commission have just drawn attention to overcharging in the telephone service.

I would like to draw your attention to overcharging relating to the Queen's Silver Jubilee, which can be described as scandalous.

The Post Office are providing souvenir covers to be used during the Jubilee Tour.

The Post Office are charging 80p for each envelope, the cost being made up as follows:

The stamps	42p
The standard envelope cost	8p
Handling charge	29p

The envelopes cannot be bought separately from the stamps, and as I suspect most of these will be used by children during the Queen's visit, just how do the Post Office justify a handling charge of over 36 per cent?

Yours faithfully, J. G. ROBINSON, 53 Woodcote Road, Purley, Surrey, May 9.

From Mr J. G. Wordsworth

Sir, Your recent correspondence shows understandable misgivings on the future ownership of our farmland. It is a matter of national importance which concerns us all.

Unquestionably, land ownership, like every other facet of the economy, is experiencing difficulties and change. This we must accept and avoid our national tendency of looking backwards and yearning for the "good old days".

It is true that the institutions and a limited number of foreigners are investing monies in our farmland. Successive governments have, over the years, taxed the traditional landlord and owner/occupier almost out of existence.

We should be thankful that, for a number of fiscal and other reasons, there is a fresh lifeline being thrown to our farmlands and farming industry. It is vital to the future of the nation that this new injection of capital should be forthcoming. It is even more vital that the new landowners are guided in the right professional direction, and by those who are trained in all aspects of land management and the preservation of our farmland and its wild life.

Yours faithfully, J. G. WORDSWORTH, Knight Frank & Rutley, 20 Hanover Square, W1, May 12.

## Nuclear missiles

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Yours faithfully, MAX LESSAR, 18 Hawkshead Road, W4, May 12.



















## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

## Stock markets

## Profit-taking but index up 17.7 on week

Though confronted with the smallest share deficit for more than a year and a quarter-point cut in the Minimum Lending Rate, shares made little headway after early profit-taking.

By 11 am, the FT Index had lost 2.7 and though there was an attempt at a minor rally, it soon petered out and by the close the index was 2.4 down at 467.8, a net gain of 17.7 over the week.

While profits were being taken in most speculative stocks, pharmaceutical group Williams, Francis was again in demand. The shares closed 5p up at 51p.

The key to the interest is a 30 per cent stake held by a Swiss company, Christian. For some months, dealers have expected takeover news.

The trade figures, though improved, did not quite match up to the bullish expectations which played such a prominent part in Thursday's strong gains.

In glitz, the early exhaustion of the 91 per cent, 1982, "tap" made for a bright opening, but it was not sustained.

Here, too, the MLR cut and the trade figures were largely discounted and by the close medium and long dated had retreated to positions half a point better than their overnight levels and "shorts" were

unchanged, or a shade firmer.

A number of stocks which for various speculative reasons have been in demand this week succumbed to profit-taking.

Notable among these were Reynolds Parsons, off 6p to 210p in spite of the Drax go-ahead, BTR which reacted 7p to 240p, Storey Brothers 4p to 116p and Hunting Gibsons which came off no less than 20p to 285p.

Others to lose ground for a similar reason were Gallenkaup "A" 8p to 295p and Laurence Scott at 135p. On the positive side, Colmore Investments rose 2 1/2p to 22 1/2p after terms from motor dealer T. Cowie and there was also speculative demand for Sheppards 4p to 85p, Hayes 12p to 164p and Beaverbrook "A" where the gain was 2p to 54p.

£1.45 layed, and here yesterday, were steady at 75p (not 99p as inadvertently reported). The company says that it has investigated recent share movements which have been almost entirely between the institutions—and can find no evidence of a stake being built up.

As foreshadowed here a short while ago, the likelihood of a General Occidental bid for the Cavenham minority appears to be moving closer and Cavenham's shares were suspended at 143p with an announcement ex-

pected early next week.

After announcing a £33m rights issue, Thomas Tilling was lowered 4 1/2p to 91 1/2p and the prospect of a Department of Trade investigation into a subsidiary proved too much for Cassell which dipped 7p to 54p.

Ahead of figures due next week, L. Lipton continued to find favour and rose another penny to 124p—up 18p over the week—on continued talk of possible bid moves in the offing.

After the earlier denial of the likelihood of a bid, J. Bibby lost another 5p to 134p, while on the property pitch Peachey was firmer by a penny to 51p after the eventual annual meeting.

Among the industrial leaders, Hawker Siddeley reacted strong to its recent big gains to drop 15p to 62 1/2p and ICI were

well report hit Tricentral which slumped 8p to 136p and Barmack was a shade firmer at 83p after the annual report.

In stores, Burton "A" continued to reflect this week's unhappy news, giving up another 4p to 74p and serving to unsettle other stores where Gus "A" fell 3p to 237p. House of Fraser, though, firmed another penny to 124p—up 18p over the week—on continued talk of possible bid moves in the offing.

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## Latest dividends

Company (and per value)	Ord	Year	Pay	Year	Prev
Barlow Rand (R10) Int	1.58	7 1/2	—	2 1/2	2 1/2
John Beales (20p) Fin	1.58	2 1/2	—	2 1/2	2 1/2
A & C Black (25p) Fin	0.66	0.6	—	0.5	0.5
T. Cowie (5p) Int	0.59	0.53	—	0.5	0.5
John Crompton (25p) Fin	0.71	0.71	—	0.5	0.5
Federated News (25p) Int	2.0	1.81	4 1/2	1.94	1.94
Plumtree (35p)	0.71	0.71	—	1.94	1.94
Lyndale Eng (10p) Int	1.69	1.46	4 1/2	2.35	2.35
Rush & Tompkins (25p) Fin	1.69	1.46	4 1/2	2.35	2.35
Sunderland Fin	2.0	1.81	4 1/2	1.94	1.94

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pounds per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.34. \* Cents a share.

## Fed Chems powers to near £3m

The recovery at Federated Chemical Holdings continues apace.

Tioxide is now being treated as an associate and this has helped the group to boost its pre-tax profit for 1976 to a record £2.9m. This compares with £501,000 a year ago and the previous year's "high" of £1.54m.

The board notes that if Tioxide had been treated as an associate in 1975, the comparative pre-tax profit would have been £1.08m.

Group turnover is 48 per cent up at £45.8m. Trading profits of the group, which was formed from the merger of Greiff Chemicals and Chemical Securities, include £2.4m against a loss of £16,000 from associated companies, while investment income has dropped from £562,000 to £26,000.

On attributable profits of £1.5m against £857,000, the dividend is raised from 4.6p to 5.06p gross. Earnings a share are 11.48p net of £1.1p.

Attributable profits are struck after deducting £207,000, against £542,000 of extraordinary items. Most of the debit is a provision of £520,000 against losses on the cessation or re-organization of certain subsidiaries, less the profit of £313,000 made on the sale of investments.

At half time, pre-tax profits leapt from £353,000 to £1,69m, most of which reflects the group's rapid recovery, thanks to strong exports and an upturn in overseas manufacturing.

The other factors were a recovery in chemical prices and better margins in the rest of the business.

The biggest problem was the Clonmel Chemicals company. Despite urgent action, which included buying out the remaining equity, it was still losing heavily at half time, although the order book was looking better.

## T. Cowie foray for Colmore looming into head-on clash

By Ray Maughan

T. Cowie, the Ford and Chrysler distributor, is running into a battle with its near 300,000 cash and paper offer for Colmore Investments.

The terms of the offer are three Colmore shares for every 3p Cowie ordinary and 30p in cash. At the middle market price of 38p of each Cowie share yesterday, Colmore is valued at 22.6p per share. The instant reaction from Mr. John Charlesworth, the Colmore deputy chairman who, with 608,000 of the four million shares, is by far the largest individual holder, was total rejection.

But Cowie, which yesterday revealed profits up from £325,000 to £510,000 in the six months to end-March, 1977, already has a strong base.

Less than two months ago it bought a 20.4 per cent stake in Colmore from Maurice James (Holdings) for £161,000 in cash and shares. Since then, the group has acquired a further 162,000 shares, from an undisclosed source, which takes its total holding up to 29.9 per cent.

Mr. Tom Cowie, chairman of Cowie, is convinced of the merits of the bid. His own group distributes largely in the North-East and North-West and

although some penetration has been made in the Midlands, Colmore would take Cowie much further into this area with British and overseas—mainly Fiat—franchises.

With a strong contribution from the finance operation, Red Dragon Securities, in the second half, Cowie is on target for comfortably a further 10 per cent in the current year, which compares with the previous peak of £320,000 in 1975-76.

Shareholders, who include the Barclays Bank subsidiary Mercantile Credit, with a 4.6 per cent stake, get a gross interim dividend of 10.15 pence.



Mr. Tom Cowie, chairman

## Cope Allman raises profit forecast after settlement

By Victor Felstead

The settlement of legal action in the United States has enabled Cope Allman International to upgrade its profit forecast for the year to June 30 next. This action was brought by two of Cope's subsidiaries in the United States against Ethyl Corp and its offshoot, VCA Corp.

The main provision of the settlement is that the agreements under which royalties were paid to VCA are cancelled so that from January 1, 1975, no further payments are due. Cope said yesterday that the parents relating to aerosol and other dispensing products which were transmitted in the agreements remain vested in the Cope group, subject to a non-exclusive, royalty-free licence to Ethyl.

The effect of the settlement on the pre-tax profit for the 12 months to next June will be to raise the forecast of about £8m by £850,000, made up of £560,000 in respect of royalties which would otherwise have been payable in the current year and certain legal costs recovered. In addition, the profits will benefit by an exceptional profit of £773,000 for royalties provided for but not paid in the past two financial years. Pre-tax profits for 1975-76 were £5.37m.

Cope believes that prospects for its dispensing products remain good, despite the proposed ban on certain propellants in the United States.

The group is well equipped both with valves for all the other acceptable propellants and with non-aerosol dispensers to meet future requirements of the market.

Cope Allman is the holding company of an international group engaged in packaging, engineering, fashion and leisure.

## Commodities

RUBBER was about steady (prices per tonne) in the early morning. The market was quiet, with a few small trades. The price of natural rubber was 100.00, and synthetic rubber was 105.00.

COCAOA was steady. The market was quiet, with a few small trades. The price of cocoa was 100.00, and cocoa beans were 105.00.

SUGAR was steady. The market was quiet, with a few small trades. The price of sugar was 100.00, and sugar cane was 105.00.

## Wall Street

New York, May 13.—Stock prices closed mostly higher on the New York Stock Exchange today despite a succession of reports of a bank prime rate.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average closed at 1,100.00, up 10.00 points from the previous day's close.

Cocoa closes 5.25c up. The market was quiet, with a few small trades. The price of cocoa was 100.00, and cocoa beans were 105.00.

## Serenity at Bowater: inquiries closed

By Our Financial Staff

All was serenity at the annual meeting of giant paper, packaging and commodities group Bowater Corporation. Lord Eroll of Hale, chairman, took in his stride a March fire at Eblemore Port where the group has its United Kingdom pulp and paper mill and two packing agencies.

And he was able to say that a board inquiry into the fire had found no evidence of impropriety. Investigation followed press reports suggesting that former deputy chairman Mr. Malcolm Horne had been involved in the fire. Mr. Horne had been dismissed from the company in 1975.

A year ago the chairman said that the board had found no evidence of impropriety. Investigation followed press reports suggesting that former deputy chairman Mr. Malcolm Horne had been involved in the fire. Mr. Horne had been dismissed from the company in 1975.

The chairman also said that the board had found no evidence of impropriety. Investigation followed press reports suggesting that former deputy chairman Mr. Malcolm Horne had been involved in the fire. Mr. Horne had been dismissed from the company in 1975.

Dealers said the late decline by the pound was of no particular significance. The market had been steady, with a few small trades. The price of the pound was 100.00, and the price of the dollar was 105.00.

## Tricentral finds edge of its N Sea field

Tricentral says that the preliminary indications at well 21/18-12 in the North Sea are that it will be a dry hole, although logging and testing have not yet been completed.

The well partially defines the northern limits of the oil accumulation discovered by wells 21/18-12 and 21/18-13. The limits of the accumulation to the south and west are still undefined.

The next well, 21/18-16, will be drilled, immediately two miles west of well 21/18-12, and two miles southwest of well 21/18-13.

MEAT COMMISSION: Average lamb carcasses, 100.00; average beef carcasses, 105.00; average pork carcasses, 110.00.

EUROBOND PRICES (midday indicators). The market was quiet, with a few small trades. The price of the eurobond was 100.00, and the price of the dollar was 105.00.

## Rush &amp; Tompkins on road to better times

Though still some way to go to match the £15m of 1973, Rush & Tompkins, the property investment and estate development group, appears to be moving out of the lean years with a near 20 per cent profit improvement in 1976. With the construction side holding up well and indications of a renewed buoyancy in the housing market, 1977 augurs well.

After providing some £508,000 for exceptional losses on the two developments in France, variable profits increased from £671,000 to £864,000 in line with the March forecast. Substantial sales have been made there since year-end, and the remainder is expected to be sold in the next 12 months.

Earnings a share in 1976 show a rise from 5p to 8.5p and, as forecast, the total payout is lifted from 3.59p to 3.95p. Turnover rose from £26.5m to £35,000 to £211,000, after writing-off £1.28m as part of direct costs and after including £155,000 for developments in progress.

Meanwhile there is a full order book on the construction side, despite the drastic curbs in public expenditure. The order book also spreads well into the following year. In housebuilding, the easier borrowing trend should soon be reflected in increased demand, though margins remain a constant problem with rising costs of raw materials.

Among its development projects, that for 2,000 houses on three sites in Scotland has started up and the expectations are that a beginning will be made on the £30m Chelmsford development by the end of this year. This is a joint venture in which the company has a 51 per cent share. A wide range of house types is being built, with a large proportion suitable for first-time buyers. Efforts also continue to obtain work overseas, particularly in the Middle East. In this region, a considerable fund of knowledge and experience has already been built up.

## Foreign Exchange

Starting failed to hold on to an earlier gain (£1.786) losing three points on balance to close at £1.772 against the dollar compared with £1.791 overnight. The late-afternoon, effective index also closed at £1.772 against \$1.81 at the close.

Dealers said the late decline by the pound was of no particular significance. The market had been steady, with a few small trades. The price of the pound was 100.00, and the price of the dollar was 105.00.

## Spot Position of Sterling

The market was quiet, with a few small trades. The price of the sterling was 100.00, and the price of the dollar was 105.00.

## Forward Levels

The market was quiet, with a few small trades. The price of the forward level was 100.00, and the price of the dollar was 105.00.

## Gold

The market was quiet, with a few small trades. The price of gold was 100.00, and the price of the dollar was 105.00.

## Eurobond prices (midday indicators)

The market was quiet, with a few small trades. The price of the eurobond was 100.00, and the price of the dollar was 105.00.

## Bank Base Rates

The market was quiet, with a few small trades. The price of the bank base rate was 100.00, and the price of the dollar was 105.00.

## Recent Issues

The market was quiet, with a few small trades. The price of the recent issues was 100.00, and the price of the dollar was 105.00.

## M. J. H. NIGHTINGALE &amp; CO. LIMITED

62-63 Threadneedle Street, London EC2R 8HP. Tel: 01-638 6551.

1976/77: 26 27 Airspring Ord 35 +1 4.2 12.1 6.5

123 100 Airspring 181% CULS 123 +1 18.5 15.1

32 25 Armitage & Rhodes 29 +1 3.0 10.3

119 95 Deborah Ord 119 +1 8.2 7.4 6.0

130 104 Deborah 171% CULS 130 +1 17.5 13.5

133 120 Frederick Parker 133 +2 11.5 8.7 6.5

75 45 Henry Gyles 75 +2 4.2 3.2 7.3

83 35 James Burroughs 83 +2 6.0 7.3 13.2

253 188 Robert Jenkins 253 +2 25.0 9.9 5.7

43 13 Twinklack Ord 43 +1 12.0 18.5

67 54 Twinklack 12% OLS 67 +1 6.1 10.2 7.5

77 65 Walker, Alexander 77 +1 5.8 7.5 8.7

## Bank of New South Wales

(Incorporated in Australia with limited liability)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT an Interim Dividend at the rate of 7 1/2 (14 pence) per share (Australian Currency) for the half year ending March 31, 1977 has been declared by the Board of Directors as provided by Clause 105 of the Deed of Settlement and will be payable on Thursday July 14, 1977. London Register books will close for dividend purposes from Thursday June 16, 1977 to Thursday June 23, 1977 inclusive.

By order of The Board of Directors R. J. White Chief General Manager Bank of New South Wales, LONDON

## UK TRADE

The following are the March trade figures seasonally adjusted and corrected on a balance of payments basis with allowance for known recording errors, as released by the Department of Trade:

	Exports	Imports	Visible balance
1974	15,899	21,119	-5,220
1975	25,379	22,574	-3,592
1976	25,294	28,886	-3,592
1976 Q1	5,611	6,149	-538
Q2	6,239	7,128	-889
Q3	4,400	5,548	-1,148
Q4	7,074	8,051	-987
1977 Q1	7,382	8,346	-954
1977	1,932	2,224	-292
April	2,018	2,369	-351
May	2,070	2,395	-325
June	1,959	2,474	-515
July	2,078	2,354	-276
Aug	2,220	2,581	-361
Sept	2,306	2,824	-518
Oct	2,320	2,775	-455
Nov	2,448	2,862	-414
1977	2,471	3,000	-529
Jan	2,432	2,618	-186
Feb	2,489	2,728	-239
March	2,627	2,736	-109

## TERMS OF TRADE

The following are the unit value index numbers for visible trade not seasonally adjusted, issued by the Department of Trade yesterday:

	1970 = 100	Index
1974	182.7	218.0
1975	198.5	245.0
1976	240.6	299.4
1976 Q1	219.0	268.3
Q2	234.2	291.7
Q3	241.1	308.6
Q4	261.7	329.0
1977 Q1	274.5	339.4
1977	228.4	285.4
April	233.9	294.2
May	240.6	301.1
June	242.6	306.7
July	241.9	308.6
Aug	251.7	311.8
Sept	256.4	322.0
Oct	261.8	332.7
Nov	266.9	335.4
1977	272.7	335.1
Jan	273.9	337.8
Feb	276.8	344.2
March	277.4	348.1

## Cocoa closes 5.25c up

COCAOA—Futures closed 2.75 to 3.25. The market was quiet, with a few small trades. The price of cocoa was 100.00, and cocoa beans were 105.00.

SUGAR—Futures closed 1.10 to 1.15. The market was quiet, with a few small trades. The price of sugar was 100.00, and sugar cane was 105.00.

MEAT COMMISSION: Average lamb carcasses, 100.00; average beef carcasses, 105.00; average pork carcasses, 110.00.

EUROBOND PRICES (midday indicators). The market was quiet, with a few small trades. The price of the eurobond was 100.00, and the price of the dollar was 105.00.

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Recent Issues. The market was quiet, with a few small trades. The price of the recent issues was 100.00, and the price of the dollar was 105.00.

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32 25 Armitage & Rhodes 29 +1 3.0 10.3







# Stock Exchange Prices

## Week ends quietly

Account Days: Dealings Begin, May 9. Dealings End, May 20. Settlement Day, May 21.  
 § Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

BRITISH FUNDS				COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN				LOCAL AUTHORITIES				MONEY				FOREIGN STOCKS				DOLLAR STOCKS				BANKS AND DISCOUNT				BREWERS AND DISTILLERS			
Stock	Price	Change	Yield %	Stock	Price	Change	Yield %	Stock	Price	Change	Yield %	Stock	Price	Change	Yield %	Stock	Price	Change	Yield %	Stock	Price	Change	Yield %	Stock	Price	Change	Yield %	Stock	Price	Change	Yield %
British Fund	100.00	0.00	10.00	Commonwealth	100.00	0.00	10.00	Local Authority	100.00	0.00	10.00	Money	100.00	0.00	10.00	Foreign Stock	100.00	0.00	10.00	Dollar Stock	100.00	0.00	10.00	Bank and Discount	100.00	0.00	10.00	Brewer and Distiller	100.00	0.00	10.00

مركز الامن لاصول



Weekend



by Sheila Black

Sunglasses are not just to make a pretty face

which is something you ought to do anyway, it is worth buying labelled sunglasses with some information about your lenses.

Blues, browns, greens and greys are the best tints but do not go for really dark tints in British climates. Greys and browns least distort natural colours. Do not rush to buy sunglasses for children but, if glare worries them, take them for professional optical advice.

Those lenses that lighten or darken according to the intensity of light—do give them time to adjust and do not lose patience because they cannot do so instantly. Polarized lenses filter out glare from flat surfaces like water and snow so these are probably wonderful for fishermen, sailing addicts and skiers. But they are not advisable for normal driving because they often show up the stress patterns of toughened windscreens and so worry drivers.

Some sound digital advice

I think that I get as many questions about modern quartz and digital watches as about most things, to say nothing of a good many complaints about those that readers have bought already. The only hard and fast rule I can give is to buy at retailers that are beyond reproach and to study the guarantee terms closely, including the small print.

The second advice I would give, despite arguments to the contrary from many experts, is that you should buy the LCD models. The letters stand for Liquid Crystal Display and that means that you have a continuous display of hours and minutes or, where relevant, date, month and seconds. The LCD is a lot more expensive, always than the LED (which stands for Light Emitting Diode). With the latter, the face is dark until a button is pressed to light it up.

Then we have the quartz watch, generally referred to as the quartz analogue, where a quartz movement is geared to a perfectly familiar watch with a face and revolving hands rather than a computer-type time-telling display. For fashion watches, this is the system and it is becoming the most popular in all price ranges.

I should also add that the Japanese excel in LCD and in quartz analogue watches, and are as good as the Swiss at any price. Timekeeping is very accurate, often to within one minute per year. The batteries actually last longer because reflected rather than actual light reveals the face. Such watches can be put into a drawer and will still tell the right time when taken out to be worn again so that you can, if you have the time and wish, build up a wardrobe of watches for various occasions.

That is but a brief résumé of long talks with many experts among high level manufacturers and retailers. And it applies to watches from £30 to £3,000.

Top right: Nothing modern about this rare piece made by master-horologist Robert Charrue at his craftsman's bench in Switzerland. From his own designs on paper, Charrue made every part by hand and polished it to perfection before assembling in a transparent glass case to show the inner beauty. For collectors of watches of Switzerland and rather good value at £3,000. For a year's work and all those precious parts, that cannot be a high price.

Right: Three quartz fashions from Piaget at Watches of Switzerland.

Photographs by Trevor Sutton

distorts, the lens is not for you or anyone.

Do not despise plastic lenses but remember that they scratch more easily. Plastics are needed for rounded fashion shapes, but study the lens for distortions or spots or particles of the original powder from which the plastic was made. Some glass is toughened and, so worry drivers.

Men, women and children are hurrying to stare at models in Welbeck Street. Models at all prices—from under £1 to over £100 or more. Models that can be touched and watched at work. Models that will, with care, keep their loveliness or ugliness for ever.

Hamleys has opened the largest model shop in the world, covering more than 5,000 square feet at the back of what used to be Debenhams and Freebody before it became Harvey Nichols of Wigmore Street. It has a great deal more than size to recommend it. It has versatility and enormous stocks—young and adult model-makers will tell you of their fury when the one essential component is out of stock and takes weeks to arrive while a painstakingly built model lies incomplete and unworkable, gathering dust.

I fell for Steam Roadsters, cars that really work with steam at from around £19 each, as well as boats and planes.

The crowds pressed their noses against the window pane behind which a large engine and trains ran on wide Gauge One rails of genuine brass. This kit can be laid out of doors and survive the weather provided the electrical parts are housed and that must be a relief to homeowners who dislike picking their way over rolling stock and rails while the surrounding floor gets dustier and dirtier. We are talking about engines at about £47 and the rails cost dear, too, but last for ever.

As a contrast to the large engines and rails are miniatures by Marklin, just as expensive but enthralling in the detail and miniaturization—an engine is about £38 and the trains are pro rata.

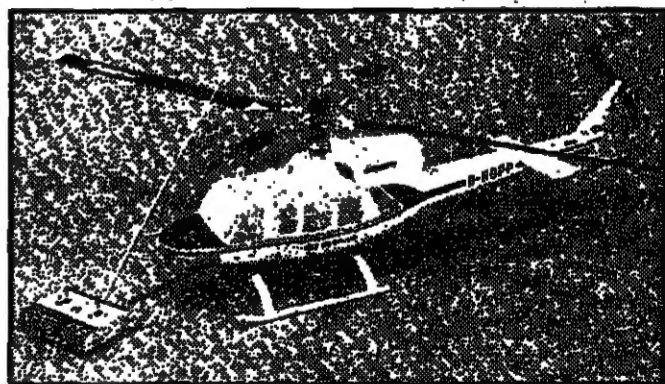
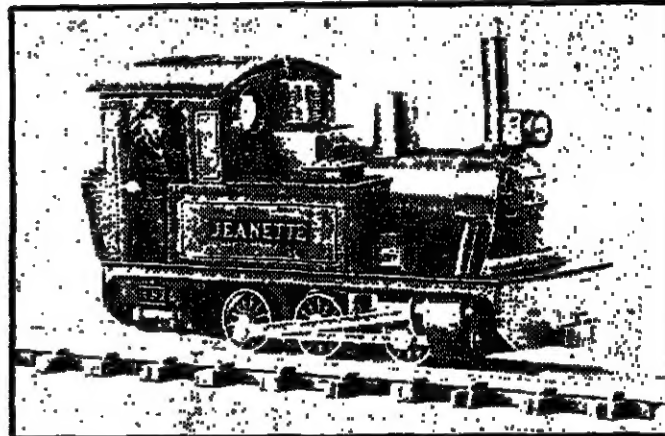
Buy the Billing boat kits from about £2. A sailing ship that really sails is a best seller but I was attracted to Spanish galleons and a

wooden Viking ship, confessing that the real wood makes a welcome change from the real plastic. There is also a wooden Cutty Sark—my family has already been presented with a plastic one. The fun thing about Billing Boats is that you can make up the complete models, then buy brass fittings and trim for them to convert them from standard to de luxe showpieces. Mark you, the brass fittings often cost more than the boats but what would you expect?

There are some hideously fascinating Black Forest clock kits. I dislike them, but hundreds love them and they are interesting to make. There was one that struck me as original—a knight swings his chain and weight against four uprights, moving between minutes to get the next post. When the chain entwines the post, it is fascinating to watch it begin to unwind itself to free the knight for his next move. Yes, it tells the time as well. These kits are about £48 for quite a variety.

War games with appropriate soldiers and accessories are specialties of Hamleys so that people come from all over the world for them. My special favourite, however, are the Builder Plus sets because I would thoroughly enjoy making up model towns and villages with steeped churches with real stained-glass windows, garages, farmhouse, pub with proper inn sign and shops. Of strong cardboard, very durable, these building components are from 40p to £1—the price is something else I like about them.

This Hamleys is not a toy shop—you still have to go to Regent Street for those. But it does have craft kits including one with which to make perfume. This is a Model Centre. There is a multi-storey car park opposite the entrance but you can spiral up to the ninth floor as each floor is small and I prefer the underground car park in Cavendish Square.



Top: Jeannette is usually found on narrow gauge railways and is popular with preservation societies because she has the charm and character that reminds them of the good old days. Her white metal body can be painted, she is 65mm long and she costs £3.75.

Above: The Bell 212 radio-controlled helicopter of glass fibre can be fitted with mechanical working parts. A giant beauty measuring more than six feet long, the fuselage is £85 but the working parts cost £200.

W. H. Smith is doing a special offer on Kodak's new Instant cameras, the cameras which are said to be less messy and sometimes more automatic than the Polaroid which had the field to itself for so long. In 40 branches, the EK4 Instant Camera which has been selling at around £48-£49, will be £34.95—that is the model with a handle which you wind to deliver the print.

The fully automatic model, EK6, which delivers the print as soon as you have taken the picture and pulled the black slip, will be £44.95 instead of about £63. Films, normally £4.80 will carry 35p reductions. From Monday next, May 16.

Devotees of the Tower Slow Cooker, the plug-in casserole with the earthenware interior that is so good and so comparatively cheap for making stews, soups and the like, may or may not be pleased to know that there is now a larger version with a six-pint capacity. I am pleased because I have found that my half-size one did not accommodate a lot of bones and bits for stock and many will welcome the larger model. Displeased because the larger one was not available in the first place. Well, not displeased, just resigned. The price of the big one is £21.95 (recommended price). It is at most stores and is made by Tower Housewares PO Box 16, Wolverhampton WV5 8AQ, Staffs. The smaller one is £17.95 (recommended price).



Furniture and children's wendy houses are being really well made, thoughtfully designed and direct by a Main and whose business is wood and hobby trying to a money while running a mess and bringing up the ally.

The Peggy Playhouse is 52 inches long by 42 inches wide 50 inches high and it is packed in a small case measuring 30 by 16 by 16 inches. When they have it the kit they can buy cushions, and accessories as letter boxes, open-close windows, a door-kiss on. The Peggy costs £35 for the basic house complete with pegs and let. Made in either Redwood or a high-grade board and there is a replacement service for lost or kea parts—the latter old be rare because the iding is sturdy despite the kaway heftiness.

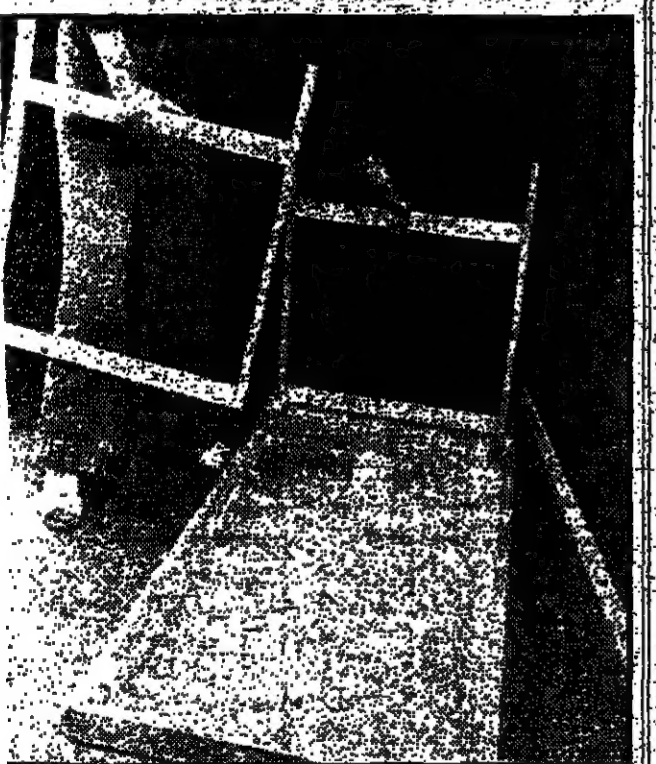
The same company makes all tables that outlive the fulness for toddlers since convert to adult of older dren's seats because of strength and these, too, k away when not used, y cost about £7 or £8.50 rding to whether you buy nished or unfinished sur. Child's tables are in the e series, as are to's tables a wooden slide that can

be run at a gentle slope from stool or table to floor and will delight but not frighten little ones.

The children are not the only ones catered for by Robin and Mary Ellis who found that family life needs a lot of flexible furniture. Their first design in this area is the table, round or oblong. The Instant Table stacks away too—pull out the legs from their steady, firmly slotted and edged positions at the corner of the table, pack them into the underside of the table itself and store until needed again for school holidays, extra visitors, summer terraces or whatever.

The tables can be finished to polished smoothness or left for you to paint, wax, stain or finish as you will, and the prices are about £6 and £13 for the size that is four feet long to seat six comfortably—width is 22 and height 29 inches. Benches match—and in themselves make small tables. All are strong enough to stand on if you take to wallpapering or painting the ceiling. The round table is £26 finished or £22 unfinished.

VAT is extra on all items and packing and delivery add another £3.50. Leaflets from Robin and Mary Ellis, 4 Bartlow Road, Linton, Cambridge. Tel Cambridge 892592/891724.



(Top) Girls with Peggy Playhouse and (above) Lady with packaway instant table.

A small firm specializing personal bookplates has given service with b several readers are so phed that they have writ-to tell me so. There are oubles—Twenties (a shade oubleau, Pre-Raphaelite, ncy, Augustan, Jacobean Medieval. Prices are £8.50 per 500 and you get the illustrated leaf from: Literary Enter-s, 46 Beechcroft Road, rd.



small, slender aerosol to itize" the air, used in ials, factories and is over much of the l, is now on retail sale. John Lewis Partnership s. It contains an Ozium Hsed solution, which quote the technical bit "hydroscopic and has an ity to moisture so that, sprayed in the air, it hes itself to the air's e moisture particles e are the vehicles for e, odours and airborne ria and literally aers them".

two hours or more in a closed room" to carry on the good work. I cannot prove or disprove this, but they do use it in hospitals and say it lasts as long as about four normal-sized air-freshening aerosols—and should do much to kill rather than merely to mask smells. For the latter, it is fine because I have at least been able to test that part of the claim. The 75p size, which fits in handbag or large pocket, contains 500 measured squirts. Enquiries to G. H. Wood and Company, 1/2 Mulgrave Court, Mulgrave Road, Sutton, Surrey if there is no John Lewis store near you.

I have been corresponding with a firm which has gone to a great deal of trouble to find a quality towel in nice colours to sell as personalized towels with names, slogans, messages or just plain, dignified initials on them.

Here you see the lettering style. You can have a maximum of 16 letters or just settle for His and Hers, even for Theirs. The idea of sending one with your telephone number on it may appeal to some? Has appealed to some,

since some have ordered them. Foreign languages are no barrier either, but do remember accents when you send abroad. My own choice of a lovely, velvety pile is on the Ascot towel, which costs £3.95 for the 17 by 32in size; £6.95 for the 23 by 46in; £10.95 for 35 by 60in; and £14.95 for 40 by 76in. Colours are white, royal blue, brown, fondant pink, champagne, sunflower, turquoise, purple and a good bronze green.

The Mayfair quality is cheaper, from £3.75 to £9.75 for corresponding sizes, and

has a good pile but is less velvety, ideal for those who prefer roughness when drying. Towelling robes to match are between £11.75 for children up to £27.75 for full length robes, while a shorter version costs £22.75.

Send for a leaflet to give further details. Do not worry about the lack of glamorous presentation on the leaflet because the service is good and the towels fine. Delivery averages three weeks. The address is Cyril Cane and Sons, 105 Wentworth Avenue, London N3 1YN.





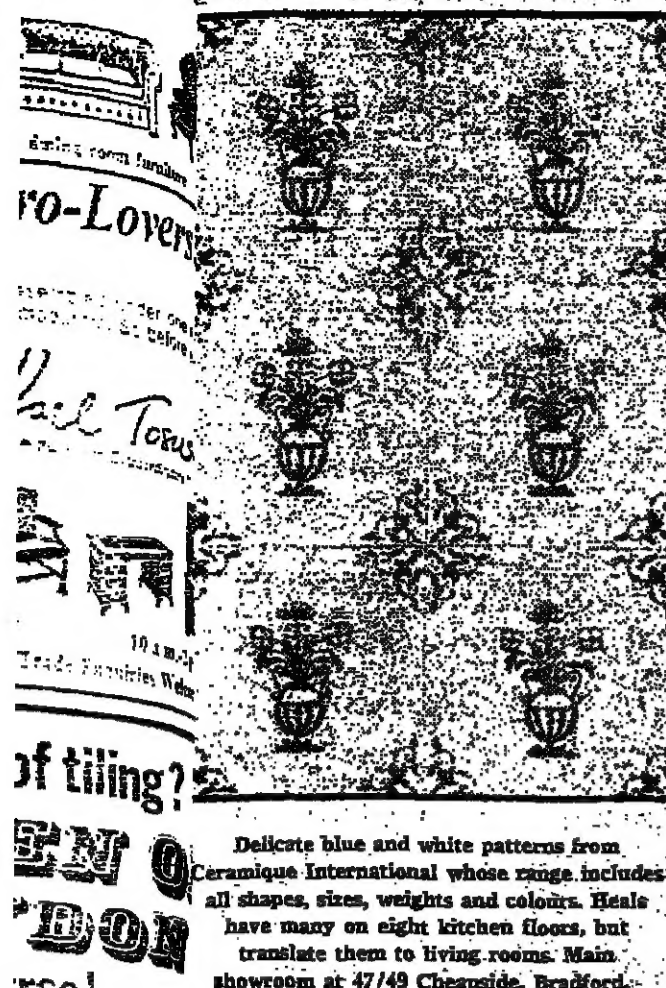
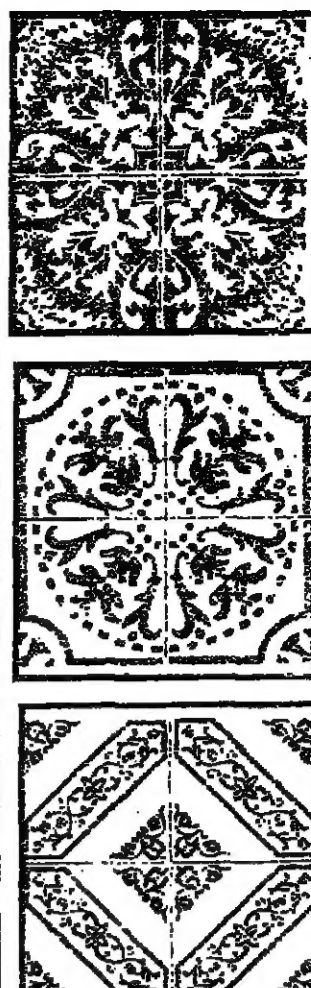


## HOME EXTRA

## Laying down something you will never regret

On the far right, hard tiles for indoors from Pilkington's. From the top, Piazza and Artec, which give more lightness. At the bottom, Copper Beech—looks warm in winter and cool in summer. About £11.50 a square yard.

Picture on right is of a sun terrace—the Patio range from Pilkington's includes natural shades like Stone, Rockface and Chocolate at about £10 a square yard.



Delicate blue and white patterns from Ceramique International whose range includes all shapes, sizes, weights and colours. Heals have many on eight kitchen floors, but translate them to living rooms. Main showroom at 47/49 Cheapside, Braintree, Essex.

If you have ever thought about why so many houses in warm climates tiled, you might have decided that it was because they were cool on the feet, or that carpets did make the rooms too warm for most of the year. But sink the tiles as there for usefulness and convenience—use, when and where the other is warm, so many people troop into and through houses from a variety of climates.

Now think about the people who live in homes that much the same treatment, remind yourself that winter makes a muddier mess in the dry, hot weather. Think of the people who live in homes that much the same treatment, remind yourself that winter makes a muddier mess in the dry, hot weather. Think of the people who live in homes that much the same treatment, remind yourself that winter makes a muddier mess in the dry, hot weather.

town or country. They have either no hallway or they have a narrow one. It is so that the dirt of the outside world is not shed before it is trodden into the carpets. And they have no side passages to the back garden or patios so that rubbish must come through the front door for the dustman, while earth, plants and other garden necessities go through from front to back.

If you think I speak with feeling, let me say that, while the estate agent might describe my home as a mews cottage of character, it is a terrace house. There is a minute hall. Then you are in the living room from which doors open to the stairs and the kitchen and the back patio. The garage door does open from the hall but there is only a short step across, the garage door finds its way into the living room too.

When I bought the house, the agent enthused about the wood-block flooring—and it was very nice. So I hurried a shaggy rug into the centre of the room and enjoyed the effect as much as the economy of not having to

carpet a room about 20 feet long by 16 feet wide.

In no time, the floor looked shaggy. Little drips laid a trail from the kitchen, dust or mud from garage or front door, fluff from stairs or spills where somebody held a hot drink precariously while opening the door to the stairs. The pile piled its share into the room. Outside doorways were hopeless as the rain soaked them. So I had the floor sanded and sealed and it then looked shiny, almost sticky, and showed every single dusty footprint. Before long the feet had literally beaten a path through the protective coating and I had a kind of Indian trail through my room.

I gave up and carpeted, with a reasonably practical orchard wool pile carpet. At the end of the first year it was steam cleaned for £14. Little rubbed patches by each doorway showed how often these areas got interim treatment so that the carpet was rubbed to a different colour in those places. The cleaning which for some years moved very slowly up and about £20, suddenly shot up and

it. The cost was almost prohibitive at about £1,000 but, since a carpet, with laying and underlay, was going to cost more than two thirds of that anyway, and I was getting a new look for front porch and back patio, I took the plunge.

A home improvement variant—a tax-relief loan, and my tiles will see me out of this world since they are made much as the old Roman tiles were and those are still being unearthed as good as new after 2,000 years.

I chose the very heavy Durissima tiles—about 90 per cent as hard as diamonds when measured by the same system. I have dropped hammers and other weights on them and not a scratch do I find. Status hardly need washing off since the hardness of the tiles means that almost everything except syrupy stickiness dries almost to a powder. They are not slippery yet they have a smooth surface. The chairs do not slide and nobody falls over. The grandchildren have skatedboarded over them, glued and painted and done whatever children do that might spoil carpets.

I care nothing for spills. In the porch or patio I drag heavy pots across the tiled surface with neither a scar nor a loss of pattern to show for it. The unified look of the whole ground floor is giving me an impression of greater space and the tiles are light and airy-looking. Because the floor is patterned, the furniture covers are plain, as are the curtains (white tweed) and the trimmings on doors and by the fire are of brass. I did buy extra tiles which proved useful when the fireplace was opened up and I need no hearth, just tiles up to and around the fireplace for even more unity. I have a massive, washable Ploki shaggy carpet—run up for winter and send it to the laundry for about £4 a year but roll it away for the summer.

Although the doors and other things have gleaming brass accessories, the time to clean them is stolen from the maintenance-free floor. My daughter, by the way, has these tiles on the floor of a room where table tennis, snooker and other games are regularly played. She has never had to do anything but

sweep the floor and wipe an occasional small mark in three years. It is quite incredible how even thick mud dries—when the rain stops long enough—into a powdery, easily swept up consistency.

Durissima tiles are from about £9 per square yard and you should expect to pay at least that for a good floor tile, especially if it needs to be frost-proof—and they do look so good carried through into the garden or terrace. Inevitably, the tiles you like best will probably be much more expensive but be patient. In time you will study so many patterns that your own taste will adjust to nearer your budget and you will not even feel that you have finally chosen a compromise. Prices vary tremendously. I bought my Durissima Italian tiles from the Guildford Tile Centre, Old Tile Works, Guildford (Guildford 75914/39559). A family business that supplies tiles and tile retailers over much of Britain, it keeps tons and tons of tiles always in stock which obviates the tedious delays of anything up to six months for much that you

might choose. They will serve you directly in much of the Home Counties south of the Thames.

They do not lay tiles but can recommend good workmen in many areas, as can most good tile stockists. Your yellow pages will list tile firms for you and I went on a tour of all my local, finding prices at between £5 and £30, before I settled on some at—then—£9 the square yard.

Wall tiles are already popular and deservedly becoming more so. Kitchen and bathroom floors are often tiled and rightly so. But now that carpet, its cleaning and eventual replacement can cost so much, think about tiles for the living rooms. I started something—my neighbour has them in her ground floor, through a studio and corridor, and would do the same again. One thing. You cannot take them with you so be sure that you plan to live on in the tiled home. To be honest, I do not think that, as yet, a tiled floor adds much to the value of the house so buy them only because you want them.

Sheila Black

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